

French break EC embargo

Hostage deal gave Gadaffi Mirage jets

By Christopher Walker, Middle East Correspondent

A COVERT deal with France for the return of three Mirage jets to Libya was the key to securing the freedom yesterday of a French woman, her Belgian lover and their daughter, who was born in captivity.

Mme Jacqueline Valente and Mr Fernand Houtekins — who had been held hostage for two and a half years — and their daughter Sophie-Liberte, aged two, were released in West Beirut by the Fatah Revolutionary Council, the Palestinian terrorist group led by Abu Nidal and funded by Libya.

Five masked gunmen in two cars dropped the hostages — who were among eight people seized from a boat in the eastern Mediterranean in 1987 — near the French Embassy. The family was later flown by private jet to Paris.

Palestinian sources said they had arrived in the Southern Lebanese port of Sidon by boat under cover of darkness over the weekend and been held in an Abu Nidal training camp until they were taken to the embassy yesterday.

On their arrival there, it was disclosed that Mme Valente, aged 32, and Mr Houtekins, aged 43, had another child in captivity — a boy named Palestine who was born in 1988, but died of a digestive ailment in March last year.

Palestinian and diplomatic sources claimed yesterday that

the delivery of the war planes last month in contravention of a 1986 EC embargo had clinched the couple's freedom. The sources said the planes had been impounded in France when sent there for an overhaul in 1986. The deal also involved the resumption of French grain sales to Libya and the restoration of shipping and telecommunications links.

Secret negotiations were said to have stretched back to the middle of last year, and their successful conclusion was signalled last month when the Libyan leader, Colonel Gadaffi, appealed for the hostages to be released during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, now under way.

Yesterday he was basking in unaccustomed praise from Paris for his part in the bargain, although attempts to secure simultaneous freedom for four other Belgians on the boat failed because of the FRC's insistence on the release of Nasser Sa'ed, a terrorist jailed for life for a grenade attack on a Belgian synagogue in 1980.

The French Foreign Minister, M. Roland Dumas, warmly praised Colonel Gadaffi for his intervention and expressed "the satisfaction and recognition of the French government and people for this noble and humanitarian gesture. It will be given proper consideration in future relations between France and Libya."

There was speculation that the releases would increase pressure on the British and American governments to

negotiate deals to free the four Britons and eight Americans still held in Lebanon, including the Archbishop of Canterbury's special envoy, Mr Terry Wain, the journalist Mr John McCarthy, and the American journalist, Mr Terry Anderson, who has been held since 1985.

The Foreign Office welcomed the release of the hostages and said "we continue to call for the unconditional release of all those still held against their will."

"We very much hope that there will be further progress on the release of the British and other Western hostages in the Lebanon."

Mme Valente and other passengers holidaying on the converted fishing smack, the Silco, have always been separated in international eyes from the 17 Westerners held by pro-Iranian factions in Lebanon. The Silco passengers — including two of Mme Valente's daughters who were released in 1988 — were often referred to as the forgot-

ten hostages because of that distinction from those whose cases have been much better publicized. The four passengers still in captivity last night were Mr Houtekins's elder brother, Emmanuel, his wife Godievie Kets, and their teenage children, Laurent and Valerie. A senior Belgian government representative was in Beirut negotiating on their behalf.

Mr Houtekins told French reporters yesterday that the morale of the four was high. "They are keeping very well. There is nothing to worry about," he said. "We were waiting for our release. We knew it would come one day. The day of our freedom has come."

The French embassy had been prepared for the return of the hostages yesterday, and they were greeted by the ambassador, M. René Ala. They ate a breakfast of croissants, jam and coffee, before giving a 20-minute interview with French journalists.

Mme Valente later telephoned her mother before the flight to Paris, and the conversation was broadcast by French radio, with Mme Brigitte Valente telling her daughter: "The nightmare is over and I am trembling with joy. I cannot even talk. It is too beautiful."

During the afternoon, the FRC's spokesman Mr Walid Khaled had a heated row with French Embassy security men after attempting to deliver gifts — including Palestinian folk costumes — said to reflect the terrorist group's "civilized mission".

Mr Khaled refused to allow his parcels to be searched, and in the end left, still carrying the packages. The FRC is believed to have been responsible for killing or wounding some 900 people in at least 20 countries since its foundation in 1974, but Colonel Gadaffi claimed yesterday that it was distancing itself from terrorism and had "proved its humanity, being a struggling organization defending a sacred cause."

The Libyan leader, who is reported recently to have released Abu Nidal from effective house arrest in Libya, said the group hoped "to jettison fully anything pertaining to terrorism to assume its status in the Palestine Liberation Organisation".

His remarks, released by the official Libyan news agency JANA, were being treated with scepticism in western diplomatic circles yesterday.

Small comfort, page 9
Leading article, page 13
Concession sought, page 24

Next to cut 2,000 jobs as profits evaporate

NEXT, the retail chain which changed the face of the British high street in the mid-1980s, is cutting 2,000 jobs, a sixth of its workforce. The company made a pre-tax loss of £46.7 million last year down from a profit of £62.3 million.

Next's chief executive Mr David Jones said the boom of the 1980s would not return for a long time. The group closed 60 branches in 1989.

At its peak two years ago

Next was making pre-tax profits of over £120 million. Last year it made pre-tax profits of £26.4 million before exceptional costs of £73.1 million mostly for the shop closure programme and redundancy payments. Sales last year fell from £1.14 billion to £949 million.

Next shares fell 6p to 73p.

Full report, page 25
Whatever next? Page 18



First taste of freedom: Sophie-Liberte playing in the French Embassy compound in West Beirut, watched by her mother, Mme Jacqueline Valente, after their release

Railmen press for 10%

By Tim Jones and Kevin Eason

UNION leaders representing 100,000 British Rail employees last night stepped up demands for a pay settlement of at least 10 per cent and predicted "rough ground" if agreement was not reached.

They had earlier rejected an improved pay offer of 8.5 per cent. The offer, which would have added £136 million to British Rail's wage bill, heightened fears that the Government's anti-inflation strategy could be wrecked as thousands seek minimum pay settlements in double figures.

Mr Michael Howard, Secretary of State for Employment, yesterday urged unions to "behave sensibly" and moderate pay claims for fear of pricing themselves out of jobs.

Leaders of more than 600,000 local government employees and 20,000 London Underground workers are also poised today to demand rises well in excess of inflation.

Ford, regarded as the company setting the pay trend for the manual sector, has negotiated further rises for a third of its workforce above the controversial 10.2 per cent settlement agreed in February.

Full report, page 2

Inner-city teams to fight drugs

By Quentin Cowdry, Home Affairs Correspondent

SEVEN government-funded "drug prevention teams" are to be set up in inner-city areas afflicted by high levels of drugs misuse, the Home Office announced yesterday.

Under the programme, the Home Office is to fund, at an annual cost of up to £2.5 million, small groups of specialists to stimulate and co-ordinate drugs prevention work in Birmingham, Brighton, Liverpool and the London boroughs of Hackney, Lewisham, Newham and Southwark. Crack, the potent cocaine refinement which has caused so much trouble in the United States, has been found in small quantities in many of these areas. Ministers believe

the move, first signalled at last year's Conservative Party conference, proves the strength of the Government's commitment to measures designed to reduce demand for drugs.

The teams, each comprising four full-time, locally recruited officials, will examine the effectiveness of projects, such as health education in schools and addict treatment facilities, and develop new ideas. Their budget may also stretch to small publicity campaigns.

The announcement was received with some confusion and anxiety by groups already offering drugs counselling and treatment facilities in those areas.

Community agencies said any extra manpower was welcome, given the increasing scale of the problem, but they pointed out that most parts of Britain already had a relevant network of co-ordinating bodies.

Over the past few years government-funded "drug advisory committees" have been set up in health districts throughout England and Wales.

These, according to a Home Office brochure only published yesterday, are to be

Continued on page 24, col 3



Princess Royal: Delivers her anti-drugs message

Princess's attack, page 3

Jail unrest brings crown court system to a halt

By David Sapped

THE continuing threat of unrest at prisons in England and Wales has brought the crown court system in many parts of the country to a halt, the Home Office disclosed yesterday.

Hundreds of criminal trials involving prison inmates have been postponed for the remainder of the week in the northern region — stretching from Cheshire, Derbyshire and Lincolnshire to the Scottish border — while, for the second day yesterday, remand prisoners did not appear at any crown courts in the London and Bristol-Cardiff areas.

The mounting chaos, which will inevitably add to the backlog of cases as well as the time remand prisoners have to spend in prison before their trials, is a direct result of the recent disturbances at Strangeways and at other prisons, particularly Dartmoor and Bristol. "At the moment, tensions are so high that we cannot spare the staff on escort duties to courts," a senior Home Office official said.

Tensions are running so high in London prisons that every available prison officer is on duty in an effort to prevent trouble. As a result, at least 30 cases were postponed yesterday in London. Lord Justice Woolf, who has been appointed by Mr David Waddington, the Home Secretary, to head the inquiry into the recent disturbances, said yesterday that he would be looking specifically at the immediate aftermath of the Strangeways riots and why the situation was not brought under control soon after wards.

His main task, however, would be "to get to the bottom of what has happened and find out why it happened and make recommendations ... to prevent it happening again."

The problems confronting the crown court system were highlighted yesterday when a judge at the Central Criminal Court had to write a personal letter to the governor of Brixton Prison ordering him to free a man held on remand who, in his absence, had been found not guilty.

A jury cleared Mr Gordon Beaven, aged 36, of aggravated burglary and possessing a sawn-off shotgun.

Prison governors' representatives are to meet Mr Waddington today to express their lack of confidence in the management of the service.

Officers hurt, page 2
Letters, page 13



Gorbachov embarks on second revolution

From Michael Binyon, Moscow

PRESIDENT Gorbachov yesterday called a meeting of his Presidential Council on Saturday to discuss proposals for a full-blown market economy. The Soviet Union, he declared, was embarking on a second revolution.

A day after his top economic adviser announced radical plans to move to a market system, the President appealed to all forces supporting perestroika and reform to unite. He said the Soviet Communist Party was offering them a broad platform on which to come together to pursue reform.

He told a Komosomol (Young Communist League) meeting that the basic steps initially planned for 1992 and 1993 should now be taken this year and early next year. And in a frank assessment, he said the country was now plagued by shortages of consumer goods, social tensions and a worsening of inter-ethnic relations.

Gorbachov threat, page 7
Leading article, page 13

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Reporter fined for contempt

A trainee reporter on a trade magazine was yesterday fined £5,000 for contempt of court after refusing to reveal the source for a report he planned to write about a company's financial affairs.

William Goodwin, aged 24, of The Engineer, is the first journalist to be found guilty of contempt under the Contempt of Court Act, 1981 which gave a statutory right to refuse to name sources except in specific circumstances.

Editors and senior figures in journalism criticized the verdict and called for a change in the law.

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Hong Kong hope

Several countries have agreed to offer passports to Hong Kong residents or are considering doing so. Among them is Argentina which has just opened a consulate in the colony. South Africa is considering applications from wealthy families.

Page 11

Abbey death

Mr Alexander Sandison, aged 75, vice-chairman of Abbey Members Against Fission, died in Westminster Hospital after collapsing while addressing the Abbey National's first annual meeting since shares were sold.

Page 25

Company gloom

In the first quarter of this year, receivers were appointed to 543 companies, more than half of them in London and the South, more than doubling the figure for the previous year.

Page 25

England battle

England were 135 for five at tea as they attempted to force a draw in the fourth Test match in Bridgetown, Barbados, with Russell, the wicketkeeper, undefeated on 47 after batting for more than four hours.

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Crash of cultures on the road to German unity

From Anne McElvey
East Berlin

The inalienable right of every German to drive his metallic-blue Mercedes as fast as he likes after a couple of glasses of Riesling is under attack — from the East.

The top speed limit on East Germany's bumpy autobahns is 100 kmph (62 mph) and an infringement can cost up to DM4800 (£260). Signs bearing the ominous figures 0.0 per cent indicate the complete clampdown on alcohol consumption before driving, and the traffic police in their fuel-injected Ladas are the most feared department of the East German police.

East Berlin's police force, releasing the accident statistics for the first three months of this year, blames a 37 per cent rise in accidents and a 46 per

cent increase in deaths on the country's roads on the influx of West Germans and their aggressive driving habits. A spokesman said that almost one third of all accidents in East Germany now involve West Germans who have usually driven too fast or have been drinking.

"They tend to be more aggressive, change lanes at random and jump the lights," said Chief Lieutenant Herr Henry Tanner of the East Berlin Transport Police. "They do not suit their Western driving ways to ours or to our roads."

He is worried that the 120,000 extra Mercedes, BMWs and Volkswagens due to flood over the border during the Easter weekend will cause further chaos on East Germany's once deserted roads and autobahns, which have seen few repairs since Hitler had them built. A special helicopter

donated by the Army and equipped with video will relay the misbehaviour of Western drivers back to the Transport Police headquarters. They have also taken over supervision equipment which formerly belonged to the Stasi.

Since the opening of the border the differences in driving habits between the West Germans and their more cautious Eastern cousins have been a steady source of tension and the formerly empty roads of East Berlin are now constantly jammed with West German cars.

But old habits die hard. The Trabant drivers still dawdle two abreast, oblivious to what is going on behind, while the Mercedes owners use their time-honoured method of getting slower drivers to move over by driving on the rear bumper of the car in front until it moves aside. The

tendency of East Germans to stop in anticipation of red lights has led to unfortunate results.

The divergences are due to the contrary developments of the two Germany's car industries over the last 40 years. The West Germans have the reputation of producing huge fuel injected chariots and like driving them fast and bumper to bumper on the smooth autobahns. The East Germans, whose Trabants are widely considered a miracle of engineering in that they go at all, are sufficiently aware of the limitations of their cars' plastic bodies.

West Germany's Transport Minister, Herr Friedrich Zimmermann, has asked the East Germans to consider accepting West German traffic laws. Herr Tanner says he intends to defend East Germany's stricter codes.

Call to alter law after journalist fined £5,000

By Michael Horsnell

A JOURNALIST fined yesterday for refusing to disclose his sources was last night joined by senior figures within the industry in a campaign to fight for changes in the law of contempt.

William Goodwin, aged 24, who refused to disclose the source of a planned report about an unnamed company's financial affairs was fined £5,000 for contempt of court.

Goodwin is the first journalist to be found guilty of contempt under the Contempt of Court Act, 1981, which gave journalists the statutory right to refuse to name their sources except in specific circumstances.

The trainee reporter on *The Engineer* trade magazine had faced a possible jail sentence for refusing to hand over notes he took of a telephone conversation with his source. Mr

John Pullin, his editor, said last night: "We are very relieved that we don't have a journalist in prison tonight."

He said he expected Mr Goodwin to return to work today or tomorrow.

Last night Mr Ian Beales, chairman of the Guild of British Newspaper Editors, attacked the court decision.

He said: "The principle of press freedom has once again been sacrificed to that of commercial confidentiality."

The judge's dismissal of the moral and legal basis of the case had dangerous implications for the future.

Mr Beales added: "There will be more gagging injunctions and further cases of this sort, to the detriment of investigative journalism and the freedom of speech generally."

"It is an appalling prospect and we shall campaign once again for proper protections within the law to safeguard journalists from it."

In a statement issued through his solicitor, Geoffrey Bindman, Goodwin said: "I'm very relieved at the outcome but I regret that as the law stands journalists who come after me will be in danger of prison sentences demanded by anonymous companies."

"I can only hope that my predicament will bring about a change in the law. I urge Parliament to amend Section 10 of the Contempt of Court Act to stop this happening again."

In a joint statement on behalf of the Press Council, Mr Louis Blom-Cooper, QC, its chairman, and Mr Kenneth Morgan, its director, said: "We welcome the judge in this case avoided the dreadful course of sending a journalist to prison because of his conscientious conduct, but the case highlights again that the apparent protection for journalists and confidential sources in Section 10 of the Contempt of Court Act is illusory."

"The decision is a blow against investigative journalism."

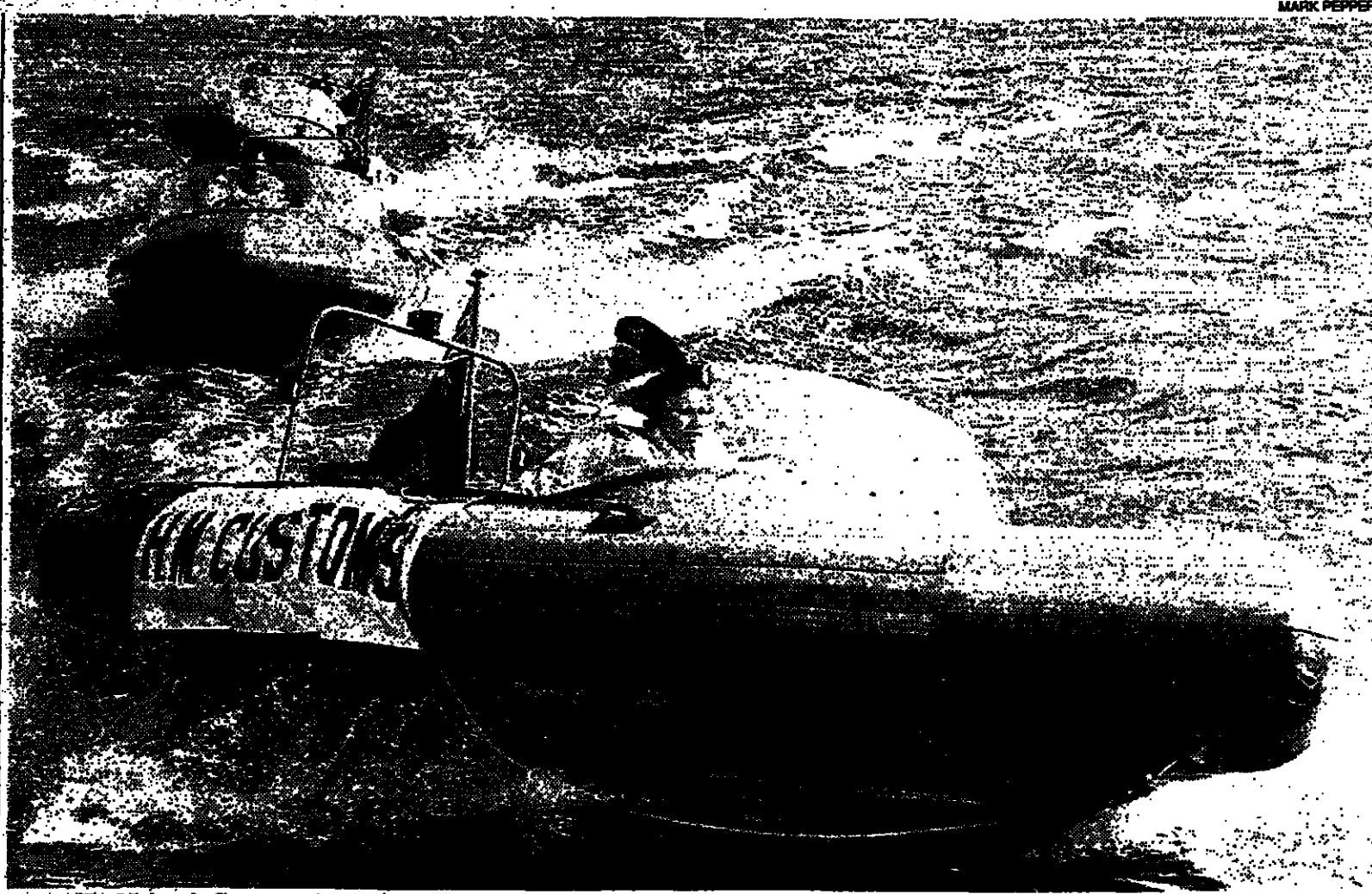
Mr Jacob Eccles, deputy general secretary of the National Union of Journalists, said that "this was the minimum punishment any judge could have imposed" and was good for journalism.

The company which initiated the action said however that it indicated to the court in the morning that it did not seek his imprisonment.

"We had hoped that his source would take the same view and would come forward and that our stolen document would be returned."

It added: "We trust that those who believe Mr Goodwin was fighting for a principle will remember that the person he is protecting has shown themselves to be both willing to misuse confidential information and to allow Mr Goodwin to be imprisoned to protect themselves."

Media, page 20



Her Majesty's Customs officers on the Thames yesterday, demonstrating inflatable boats used in the campaign against drug smugglers

Burglar 'too drunk to escape with haul'

A BURGLAR who celebrated his release from prison by stealing a painting valued at £47,000 was too drunk to get away with his haul, Southwark Crown Court was told yesterday.

Colin Halford, aged 29, of North End Road, Fulham, south London, alerted neighbours of the Johnathan Clark art gallery in Park Walk, Chelsea, when he kicked in its window at 3.30am. He limped into the gallery and took a painting by Sir Matthew Smith.

As he fled he ran into a lamp post and could not get the painting into the getaway car driven by his girlfriend. After trying to carry off the painting he threw it into a dustbin.

Mr Stephen Kramer, for the prosecution, said Halford had been drinking for virtually the whole day before the incident to celebrate his release from prison. He said Halford had picked up the painting and tried to fit it into his car, only to realize it was far too big.

Assistant Recorder Gerald Gordon sentenced Halford to 21 months imprisonment, suspended for two years, and ordered him to pay £500 compensation for damage to the picture frame and costs of £350.

He told Halford: "The sentence is suspended and you might want to think about that before you attempt to stray in the future."

"You have only just been released from prison and you had quite obviously been drinking far more than was good for you."

"The noise you made breaking the window, barging into a lamp post and taking a picture you could not even fit into your car shows the highest degree of incompetence."

"It is a picture little short of farce," he said.

Summit split on cannabis policy

By Our Crime Correspondent

SHARP differences of opinion are not supposed to ruffle the waters of events like the World Ministerial Drug Summit. There were signs yesterday, however, that on the question of cannabis a rift as wide as the Atlantic lies beneath the surface.

Cannabis does not seem to figure highly in the debates in being the leading drug of abuse. How its users are treated, however, has roused passionate differences, with different sides claiming that what is done about cannabis determines what happens with the harder drugs.

On one side stands the US, with a tough stance on all drugs. On the other stands The Netherlands, with Europe's most liberal regime toward drugs and a view that tough measures create tough opposition.

The Dutch are held in

suspicion by other countries that believe their policies have helped to create a potent drugs *entrepreneur* in Amsterdam and Rotterdam. For their part, the Dutch mutter privately about the cultural colonialism of the Americans trying to impose their views on others and employing warlike terminology for an issue that should be treated as a health problem.

The US point of view was put yesterday by Dr Herbert Kleber, deputy director for Demand Reduction, who argued that one form of demand reduction lay in consumer accountability, which meant both casual and heavy drug-users were penalized.

The Americans argue that cannabis is a "gateway drug" leading to hard drugs. Dr Kleber said: "In our prevention strategy we say that the carrier - the vector - of this disease is the casual drug-user,

not the addict. The addict is not the role model. The role model is the person who is using drugs at work and at school who sends a message by his behaviour that you can have it all."

The Dutch have put cannabis possession low on policing priorities so that the drug is openly on sale in Amsterdam.

Yesterday, Dr Eddy Engelsman, head of the branch specializing in drug problems at the Dutch Ministry of Health, said his country continued to support prohibition of narcotics. If cannabis users were pushed underground, however, they mixed with hard drug-users and would become infected. The Dutch approach removed the glamorization of drugs.

Dutch figures showed that less than 2 per cent of young people under the age of 19 had used cannabis last month and

less than 0.5 per cent had tried narcotics. In spite of the American view, the number of addicts in The Netherlands had stabilized at 20,000 in a population of 15 million, and in some cities the number of addicts had dropped.

Dr Kleber replied, however, that seizures of cocaine by the Dutch had tripled in the past few years. Dr Engelsman pointed out that a great deal of the cocaine was seized in Rotterdam while in transit.

On one thing both men seemed to agree on was that cultural differences might well make for different solutions.

As for Britain, Dr John Strang, adviser to the Department of Health, said elements of Dutch policy existed here, such as a lighter hand in prosecuting possession of small amounts of drugs. This sort of policy was mixed with others to fight the problem.

Princess attacks waste of resources

By Stewart Tiedler
Crime Correspondent

PROCESSING, trafficking and using drugs amounts to a criminal waste of human and economic resources that the world can not afford, the Princess Royal told the world drugs conference yesterday.

The Princess, who admitted never having had anything more dangerous than coca tea in the Bolivian Highlands, suggested there were no patent remedies to drug abuse. What was needed was dedication globally to a tripartite policy of reducing demand, curbing trafficking and cutting crop production.

In an often robustly phrased speech, she said: "I have seen the effects of peer group pressure, which is the smart term for a group of young people you hang out with and you think are friends."

She had seen "the results of a type of moral blackmail perpetrated by smart young intellectuals who think taking drugs is a smart occupation and no you can't come and play with us if you don't take drugs as well."

The Princess pointed to the way addiction had come full circle to infect the producer countries. In Bolivia peasants had chewed or drunk the coca leaf for centuries to help them work at altitudes 15,000ft above sea level. She added: "I can vouch for the tea."

Coca farmers could hardly refuse more money than they had ever seen before. They had no idea what processed cocaine looked like, but then the processors began paying in cocaine rather than cash.

Dealing with the drug problem needed better communications, co-operation and trust. It would be foolish to believe that some demand for drugs would not always exist, but one important area was to dispel some of the images and misunderstandings, she said.

A high effort was needed from the national and international community, many of whom "will not recognize drugs is a major problem until it affects them". This was a long-term recipe for disaster.

"Abbey National plc... the largest number of shareholders of any company in the world"

Extracts from the statement by Sir Campbell Adamson, Chairman of Abbey National plc, at the Annual General Meeting.

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- Mortgage market share increased from 8.4% to 11.9% in a difficult market but with no sacrifice in quality.

- Operating expenses were 45.2% of total operating income: well below that of the other major clearing banks.

- Assets up 18% to £37.2bn.

- Profits before tax up 21% to £501m, second only to Barclays among the major clearing banks.

Products and Services

We have emerged from a demanding but successful 1989 as a new kind of financial animal and we are wasting no time in bringing the advantages of our new status to our customers.

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On the savings side the Optimum Bond was launched in November for customers with larger sums to invest and has proved a real winner, already attracting over £1bn.

We are already the second largest insurance intermediary in the UK. Advice on products is available through branches and Cornerstone outlets. In addition Abbey National Financial Services Ltd. has over 100 consultants advising clients at work or in their homes on a range of financial products and services including Unit Trusts, Pensions and Retirement and Savings planning.

Abbey National Homes Ltd. has continued to develop accommodation for purchase or rent. It is currently involved in building houses and flats on 32 sites totalling 1,800 units.

In 1989 we opened a second office in Spain and began a new business in Italy. At the start of this year we announced our intention to acquire the French mortgage company FicoFrance.

But we are fully aware of the promise we made to shareholders that we would not venture too far from our traditional areas of business. Nor have we. We are in Europe to do mortgage and savings business - profitably. That's what we are good at.

1990

What does the future hold for us? The economic outlook for 1990 may be an uncertain one - but I think we have proved once again that we can do well even when conditions are difficult. With operating costs lower than nearly all our professional rivals and very appreciably lower than the banks, we have an advantage which we intend to hold on to.

Summary

- In 1989:
 - Profits went up 21% to £501m - a total beaten only by Barclays of the major clearing banks.
 - The operating to income ratio was only 45.2%, well below that of the clearing banks.
 - Mortgage market share went up to 11.9% from 8.4%.
 - Abbey National captured 8% of the current account market with over 1 million accounts now opened.
 - The Optimum Bond proved itself a winner with over £1bn invested.
 - Abbey National established new business in France and Italy.
 - With competitive interest rates, healthy balance sheet and strong financial ratios relative to our competitors, Abbey National is well set to negotiate the economic uncertainty of 1990.

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Investigation into judge who doubted rape claim

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

THE Lord Chancellor's officials are investigating comments yesterday by a judge who provoked a furore when he cast doubt on the claim of a woman alleging rape.

Judge Raymond Dean, QC, aged 67, said a verbal refusal of sex might not be seriously intended.

"As the gentlemen on the jury will understand, when a woman says 'no' she doesn't always mean it."

"Men can't turn their emotions on and off like a tap like some women can," he said.

His comments came when he was summing up at the Central Criminal Court to a jury of six men and six women. An hour later they cleared a property consultant of rape.

Judge Dean, who is no stranger to controversy, went on to tell the jury that he thoroughly agreed with their verdict in the trial of Mr Paul Kemp, aged 39, of Cranley Gardens, Chelsea, south-west London.

The judge's remarks brought immediate criticism. A barrister with experience in rape cases said: "Judges normally do go out of their way to stress that a woman can say no to sex at any stage before intercourse, despite how far she has allowed the man to go."

The Lord Chancellor's Department said it would be asking for a report from the court of what the judge said.

At the end of the prosecution case Judge Dean had invited the jury to throw out the case for lack of evidence.

but the jurors told him they wanted to hear the whole of the proceedings before making up their minds.

Mr Kemp, who was given his court costs from public funds by the judge, did not give evidence but through his counsel, Mr Robert Fischel, maintained that the complainant, an American secretary aged 23, consented to sex with him.

"Women make up allegations of rape for a variety of reasons, sometimes only known to themselves," Mr Fischel told the jury.

The secretary said in evidence that Mr Kemp had raped her after they had shared three bottles of champagne.

Judge Dean sits regularly at the Central Criminal Court. He is regarded as a "plain-speaking Northerner" by fellow judges and lawyers.

Last week he jailed a robber for five years and told him: "You and I are both professionals but we come out from opposite sides of the ring."

In June last year the judge freed a rape suspect, and caused an outcry, because the prosecution was not ready to proceed. The alleged victim had not been informed.

Mrs Audrey Wise, Labour MP for Preston, said Judge Dean's remarks demonstrated he was not competent to be a judge.

Mrs Wise said: "This is appalling. It is an invitation to rape and it makes men feel that it is OK. It is encouraging men to think women are utterly foolish and do not know their own minds."

"I do not think this man should be a judge. A man who can say that when it comes to sexual intercourse, a woman who says 'no' does not necessarily mean it, is just not competent to be a judge."

No decision has yet been taken by the Lord Chancellor on whether any action should be taken over Judge Pickles, the outspoken circuit judge, over comments he made at a press conference he held at a public house. "The matter is still under active consideration," a spokesman said.



Judge Pickles: Comments under consideration

Haughey to visit Belfast in spite of protest threat

By Edward Gorman, Irish Affairs Correspondent

THE Irish Prime Minister will today visit Belfast in the teeth of vehement and possibly violent "loyalist" protest.

Mr Charles Haughey's first visit to the heart of Ulster's mainly Protestant capital in more than 25 years is to speak at an Institute of Directors' conference on cross-border economic co-operation.

His acceptance of an invitation to address the conference as president of the European Council has sparked a storm of "loyalist" protest which threatens the kind of mass demonstrations and possibly rioting not seen in Northern Ireland since the Anglo-Irish Agreement was signed in November 1985.

It is characteristic of Mr Haughey — never short of bravado — that he is determined to complete the engagement in spite of the danger he could face.

Hardline Unionist leaders have turned to their advantage the particularly bad timing of the visit, with Anglo-Irish relations at their lowest ebb for two years after recent decisions by the Irish Supreme Court on extradition.

Mr Ian Paisley, leader of the Democratic Unionist Party, has promised mass demonstrations outside the conference.

He said Mr Haughey would arrive in Belfast "with the blood of Ulster's innocent dead dripping from his garments". His party has sought to maintain the momentum with newspaper advertisements yesterday which said: "In the name of Ulster's loyal dead and future generations, we call on all loyalists to protest."

The Institute of Directors said the visit was about business and did not have a political intent. The conference would focus only on how closer co-operation between Northern Ireland and the Republic could lead to

economic prosperity for both. Perhaps the most significant element will be the extent to which Mr Paisley and his colleagues succeed in getting people out onto the streets.

As opposition to the Anglo-Irish Agreement has dwindled, political lethargy and inertia has seeped through "loyalist" ranks, evidenced by the failure of recent "mass protests".

Some observers see a shift within hardline loyalism towards conciliation.

For Mr Haughey the visit is another chance for statesmanship in the role he enjoys as president of the European Community.

Mr Haughey regards the presidency, which he has planned meticulously, as the crowning glory of his long

Adams hints at peace talks

THE Provisional IRA might suspend its terrorist campaign if serious negotiations on a lasting settlement to the Irish problem were in prospect, Mr Gerry Adams hints tonight (Richard Ford writes).

In an interview to be shown on Channel 4, Mr Adams, MP for West Belfast, outlines ideas including a Bill of Rights to reassure Protestants over civil and religious liberties, and the suggestion of federal or devolutionary arrangements for the north.

To overcome the broadcasting ban on interviews with terrorist sympathizers, the voices of Mr Adams and other Sinn Féin activists have been replaced by actors reading their words.

The *Dispatches* programme was approved by the IBA last week. The Home Office said it was not the first time the voices of Sinn Féin supporters had been replaced by actors.

political career and has maximized its ceremonial and international potential. He has visited European heads of state and recently returned from meetings with President Bush in Washington.

At the outset in January he made clear his belief that change in Eastern Europe could be matched in Ireland and offered to begin talks with Unionists at any time on political progress for Northern Ireland.

Apart from its political and symbolic value, the Haughey visit presents great difficulties for the security forces in Belfast and may be the toughest challenge of its kind faced by Mr Hugh Annesley, chief constable of the Royal Ulster Constabulary.

A big security operation has been in train for some days and Mr Haughey's travelling arrangements have been kept secret.

Mr Annesley could temporarily shift the conference venue at the last minute, or fly the Irish leader into the city centre from the Harbour Airport by helicopter, landing behind the hotel, which has never been done before.

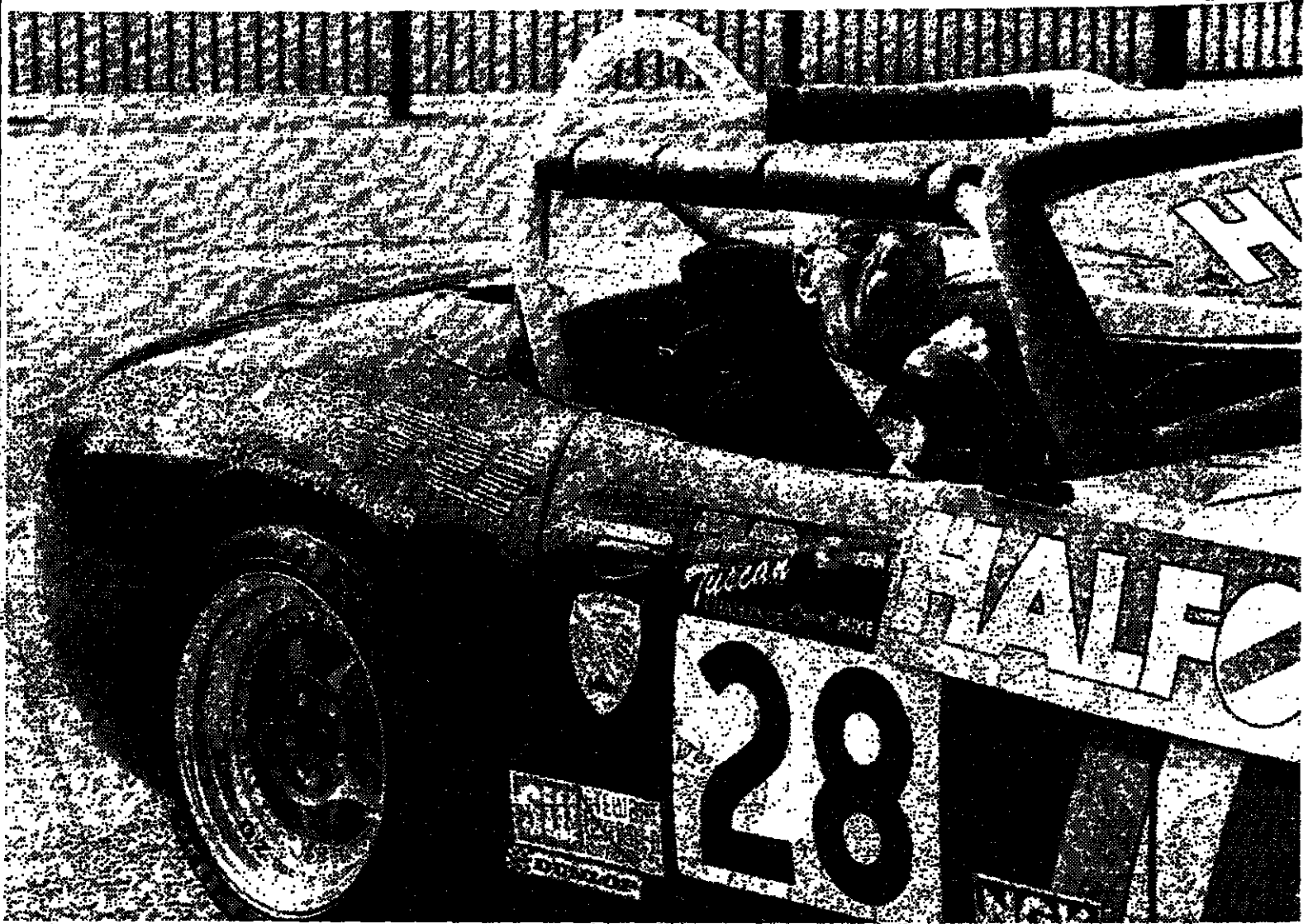
The management of the Europa Hotel, the conference venue, will not fly the Irish tricolor on the forecourt — an ordinarily appropriate gesture given Mr Haughey's status as head of state — because he is in Belfast not as the Irish premier but as European president.

Officials at the Europa, the most bombed hotel in Europe, said a helicopter could not land safely on the roof.

Mr Peter Brooke, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, who no doubt lost friends among the Unionist community by describing the visit as "clearly appropriate", will not be in Belfast today but is understood to be in direct touch with the chief constable over the security situation.

Denis Thatcher backs Britain's driving force

GRAHAM WOOD



Mr Denis Thatcher taking the driving seat of a British-built TVR sports car to emphasize the fact that almost all the 26 cars entered in Europe's largest street motor race, the Halfords Birmingham Super Prix, will be made in Britain. A race for TVR cars, powered by Rover V8 engines, will be a supporting event. The programme for the two-day meeting, to be held late in August, was announced in London yesterday.

Shops face bar on sale of tobacco to children

By Nicholas Watt

FINES on shops that sell cigarettes to under-age children will more than double to £1,000 and local authorities will have to carry out studies of retailers' conduct if a Bill launched yesterday by the pressure group Parents Against Tobacco succeeds.

The Children and Young Persons (Protection from Tobacco) Bill, which has been introduced to the House of Commons by the Labour MP Mr Joe Ashton, would make it illegal to advertise tobacco from shops. It would also end the practice of selling single cigarettes to children.

Parents Against Tobacco (PAT) said yesterday that the Bill will create a "blockade" between the tobacco industry and children. Children spend £70 million a year on tobacco.

Mr Des Wilson, chairman of PAT, said the Bill was a response to the "cynical act of selling a deadly product to children which is at least as addictive as heroin and cocaine and causes far more damage".

PAT admits that the Bill is unlikely to make progress before the summer recess but expects it to be adopted after the private members' ballot in the autumn.

Drunk drivers discovered to be over the legal limit in random tests could be offered a fine home by Civil Servants involved in roadside research (Kevin Eason writes).

The Ministry of Transport's road research laboratory will be conducting tests for six months from next month to find out who are the worst offenders.

Drivers will be asked to give a breath test to Department of Transport researchers. No action will be taken against those found to be over the limit. Researchers have no powers of arrest and instead will ask passengers, who are sober, to take over driving, or will ferry the drunk driver home.

The Department of Transport is expected to use the statistics to direct advertising at the type of motorists who are the most frequent drink-drive offenders.

Fiancé offered 'emotional bribe'

A WOMAN offered her fiancé £20,000 to sleep with her in an hotel in London as part of an emotional bribe, Birmingham Crown Court was told yesterday.

Baroness Susan de Stempel made an anonymous deposit of £20,000 in her future husband's account in an attempt to secure respectability and a title, Mr Richard Du Cann, for the defence, said.

In his closing speech, he asked: "Was it a financial and emotional bribe to persuade him to spend the night with her in a London hotel?"

"Was it as we suggest one last desperate throw she was making to secure him? It was a most extraordinary state of affairs."

Baron Michael de Stempel, aged 60, Marcus Wilberforce, aged 28, and Sophia Wilberforce, aged 27, deny conspir-

ing to steal Lady Illingworth's £300,000 fortune. Baroness de Stempel has pleaded guilty to five charges of theft and two of forgery.

Mr Du Cann said the baroness sought the marriage as a means of returning to the "trappings" of high society from which she had alienated herself in the 1950s after her marriage to Mr Simon Dale, a blind architect.

He said her aim was to live in a London house big enough for her beautiful furniture. But, he said, when she discovered that the baron had another woman friend shortly after their marriage she launched a campaign of hate mail against him and his friend.

Mr Du Cann said the letters and telegrams, which were recovered from the baron's home after his arrest, were a

deliberate attempt to embarrass him and his lady friend, Miss Jane McKie.

A telegram from the baroness to the baron after a visit to Miss McKie said: "Keep looking over your shoulder. Big Brother is London too. Received communication from Sandwich Carrot."

Mr Du Cann said the baroness referred to Miss McKie as Sandwich Carrot because she had once lived in Sandwich.

Mr Richard Wakerley, QC, for Miss Sophia Wilberforce, said Miss Wilberforce could not have been involved in the conspiracy because conspiracies thrive on secrecy.

He said Miss Wilberforce had expressed concern about her great aunt's health openly to her godfather, Francis Rose, and to her friend, Barbara Smith. Mr Wakerley

said: "She was the one who spread the news that Lady Illingworth had gone into a home."

He told the jury: "If she had gone off buying jewellery, if she had gone off on holiday or if she had taken Aunt Puss for a ride for her money you would be the first to know."

"The bank statements are here. Aunt Puss' and Sophia's," he added.

Mr Wakerley said Miss Wilberforce had not enjoyed the high life and had worked for her money "on the scaffolding" of Heath House, a family home in Worcester.

Mr Wakerley asked the jury: "Do you think she would have gone off for three months if she thought there was a prospect of living the high life with the benefits from Aunt Puss?"

The hearing continues today.

'Excesses' of timeshare advertising condemned

By Richard Evans, Media Editor

INTRUSIVE holiday timeshare mailshots are developing into a nuisance and threaten to undermine the reputation of the direct mail and advertising industries, the Advertising Standards Authority said yesterday.

In a strong attack on the "dark corner of the industry", it condemned the excesses of such material and called on the Royal Mail and the Direct Mail Services Standards Board to join forces with the advertising watchdog body to eliminate the trend.

The latest rebuke for the timeshare industry comes after monitoring of promotional material and numerous complaints from people who have received repeated and unsolicited timeshare mailshots, some offering lavish "free gifts" which are often not free.

The Office of Fair Trading is investigating the timeshare industry and in January the

Consumers' Association called for the Government and European Commission to curb the hard-sell techniques of timeshare property developers.

Some holiday timeshare promotions "have been in a class of their own as particularly offensive and intrusive", the ASA said in its monthly case report. The mailshots tended to be "less than frank" and were "coy about the product they were trying to sell."

The crassness and lack of subtlety of some of the marketing organizations handling timeshare publicity is well-known: they devise absurd wording on the envelope supposed to suggest urgency; they stress that recipients have been carefully selected — although... we get complaints from widows and single people who are approached under schemes designed specifically for married couples.

An ASA spokesman said: "Regrettably, from our point

of view, the people who are retained by the timeshare businesses all have one common aim: to get as many people to a timeshare presentation as possible, in as devious a manner as possible."

"Free" gifts offered to tempt people to presentations, where they were often subjected to hard-sell techniques, included free accommodation for two in Florida, without mentioning the £580 a person needed for flights, food and transport; free satellite television dishes, without mentioning the cost of installation and the necessary decoding equipment, and free car telephones, without installation and rental, the spokesman said.

"Timeshare advertising does not carry respect, and in a perverse way the indignation is a tribute to standards that the public have come to take for granted from advertisers — standards voluntarily enforced by the mainstream of the advertising industry."

"Part of the anxiety of the ASA is that unsatisfactory standards in one sector will undo the goodwill built up by the industry overall over a long period," the report said.

Some companies promoting timeshare holidays post material from elsewhere in Europe and from the United States to avoid detection.

Direct Mail Services Standards Board and Royal Mail are seeking ways of dealing with dubious companies operating from outside Britain.

Single parents receiving benefits double in decade

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

THE number of single parents receiving social security has more than doubled to 722,000 in the past decade but the Government has failed to establish why and has cut the number of staff dealing with maintenance payments, according to a critical report from the National Audit Office published yesterday.

Mr John Bourn, Comptroller and Auditor General, accuses the Department of Social Security of failing "to fulfil the full range of responsibilities required for the adequate stewardship of the money provided by Parliament for lone parent families".

Between 1980 and 1988

social security spending on lone parents increased by 140 per cent to £3.6 billion but the proportion of lone parents getting maintenance payments dropped from 50 per cent to 23 per cent.

Although the department claimed that contacting liable relatives — mostly fathers — for maintenance was highly cost effective, the number of staff involved in this work fell by a third, from 2,356 to 1,578 between 1981 and 1988, the report says.

The DSS estimated that in the year to March 1989 every £10,000 spent on staff working in this area produced benefit savings of £82,000. It estimates that £29 million was

saved where benefits no longer had to be paid, an increase of £9 million since 1982-83.

Mr Michael Menecher, Labour's social security spokesman, said the report revealed an astonishing degree of incompetence in recovering maintenance from absent parents... the "Government has cut back the staff who track them down by a third".

Mr Bourn said part of the reason for the increase in single parents was the result of higher rates of divorce. Those on social security, however, did not appear to come off benefit, as might have been expected if mothers returned to work or married.

"We concluded that it was a matter of concern that the DSS has not yet been able to provide a full analysis of the factors giving rise to the increasing dependency among lone parent families on supplementary benefit/income support, one of the most striking trends of social security expenditure during the 1980s," Mr Bourn said.

Support for Lone Parent Families. Report from the Comptroller and Auditor General, Department of Social Security (Stationery Office, £5.45)

Apology to athletes over drugs

THE tobacco company Benson & Hedges apologized in the High Court yesterday to the former international athletes David Bedford and Bruce Tulloh for including them on quiz cards about drugs in sport.

The cards in packets of Silk Cut cigarettes asked which of three named athletes had recently been jailed for dealing in steroids. The possibilities were Bedford and Tulloh, plus David Jenkins, who was the correct answer.

The court was told that neither Bedford nor Tulloh had used drugs in sport, and that they had campaigned against their use.

Actor's libel

Timothy Dalton, the actor who plays James Bond, accepted undisclosed libel damages in the High Court yesterday for an article in *Globe Magazine* suggesting that he was to be replaced to save any future 007 film from financial disaster.

Society place

The Alliance and Leicester building society has been given permission to develop Carlton Hayes Hospital, a former mental hospital near Narborough, Leicestershire, as its new headquarters.

Pond death

Mr Charles Welchman, aged 80, of Cheddar, Somerset, drowned yesterday trying to retrieve his hat after it had blown into the village pond.

Puma hunt

A puma hunt was launched by police yesterday after a man walking his dog spotted the animal worrying cattle on a farm near Lweres, East Sussex.

Clear view

Scaffolding and plastic sheeting that has hidden the Royal Pavilion, Brighton, during a £10 million restoration programme over the past nine years, will come down today.

Body inquiry

Police are trying to identify a body found in a burnt-out car at Iwer, Buckinghamshire.

In the dark

The village of Collingbourne Kingston, Wiltshire, was blacked out when a 16-ton lorry and trailer loaded with notepaper and pens crashed into telegraph poles and the village war memorial early yesterday.

House prices are still falling, Halifax says

By Christopher Warman, Property Correspondent

HOUSE prices are either static or still falling slightly, the Halifax Building Society reported yesterday.

The annual rate of house price inflation, which was more than 34 per cent a year ago, fell to zero by the end of last month, with prices unchanged from their level 12 months ago.

The Halifax said that it was too early to say whether the bottom of the market had been reached.

"Although some recovery in house prices is possible in the southern half of the country late in 1990, the prospect of mortgage rates remaining at current levels for some months does not point to a buoyant market," the Halifax said.

"House prices in the UK as a whole will remain depressed. However, continued rises in incomes and the likelihood of falling mortgage rates through 1991 will boost the market, and we expect a firm recovery in 1991."

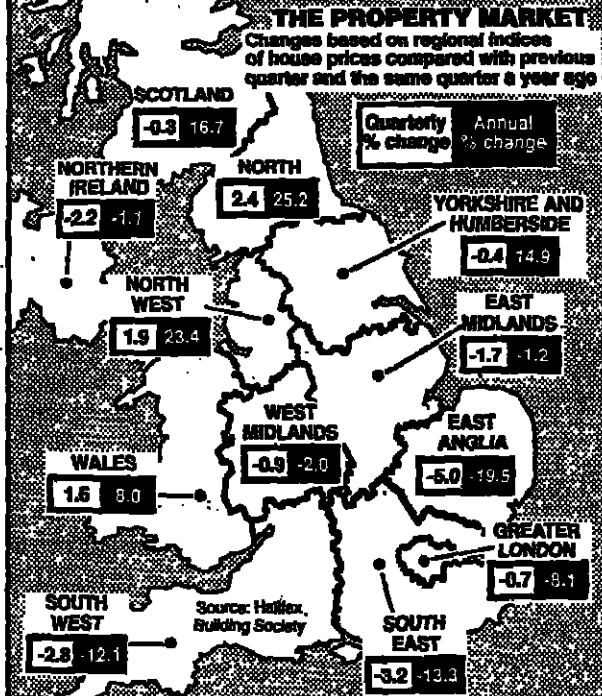
House prices are now 10 to

20 per cent lower than a year ago in much of the south of England. Prices have also begun to fall in the Midlands and are rapidly slowing in the North. In Scotland, prices increased by 17 per cent in the past year but a fall of 0.3 per cent in the past three months suggests they have reached their peak.

The annual fall in prices in Greater London is 8.1 per cent (down 0.7 per cent in the last quarter), while in the South-east as a whole prices are down by 13.3 per cent over the year and by 3.2 per cent in the past three months.

East Anglia, perhaps the biggest boom area until 1988, has suffered the biggest fall in prices, down by 5 per cent in the last quarter and 19.5 per cent since this time last year.

One effect of the slump is that the regional price differences have returned to their normal levels, with prices in London now 1.8 times those in Yorkshire compared with more than 2.6 times in the summer of 1988. The ratio of



house prices to average earnings has fallen to 4.6 from its peak of around five. Continued earnings growth of 9 to 10 per cent per annum and weakness in house prices

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Teachers demand end to 'monstrous' paperwork

By David Tytler, Education Editor

SCHOOLS struggling to cope with the "monstrous bureaucracy" of the Government's education reforms have "no more room for manoeuvre than a helpless wriggle", a teachers' leader said yesterday.

Mrs Inez Preston, president of the Assistant Masters and Mistresses Association, said teachers were finding it difficult to manage their schools and educate the children while keeping up with the changes demanded by the reforms.

Mrs Preston said teachers required "more time to prepare lessons properly; more time to teach classes effectively; more time to assess work properly".

She added: "There is only one activity on which spending less time would improve our morale: time spent on the monstrous bureaucracy spawned by the Education Reform Act."

Mrs Preston was particularly scathing of the Government's "prescriptive" policy on the Local Management of Schools, which passes the day-to-day running of schools from the local authority to the heads and governors.

Mrs Preston, head of language and communication studies at Monkwearmouth

Comprehensive School, Sunderland, said able teachers were likely to be forced to leave schools caught "in the tight grip of budgetary nutcrackers".

She told the association at its annual assembly in Blackpool: "It is almost certain that some LMS school governors will have to declare staff redundant."

"What could be more absurd... they will lose able teachers they badly need and the quality of education will be lowered."

"The Government should, as a matter of the most acute urgency, monitor the practical effects of its over-prescriptive management blueprint, and make sure that local authorities have the power and

funding to make any necessary adjustments."

Mrs Preston said heads were becoming more concerned about accountability and asked: "Will applying the principles of consumer choice and the rules of the market place to schools improve the quality of the education service? Or will it lead to chaos?"

"Forced into competition with each other, schools will have to maintain and improve their reputation with parents if they are to attract the pupils who provide most of their income."

"Running their own budgets, determining their own priorities in the competition for pupils, they will become more efficient. Those which

do not will go to the wall." Referring to the decline in teachers' morale, Mrs Preston said it would "never recover so long as a large number of experienced educators, working long hours and under intense pressure, are paid substantially less than those in other similarly qualified positions."

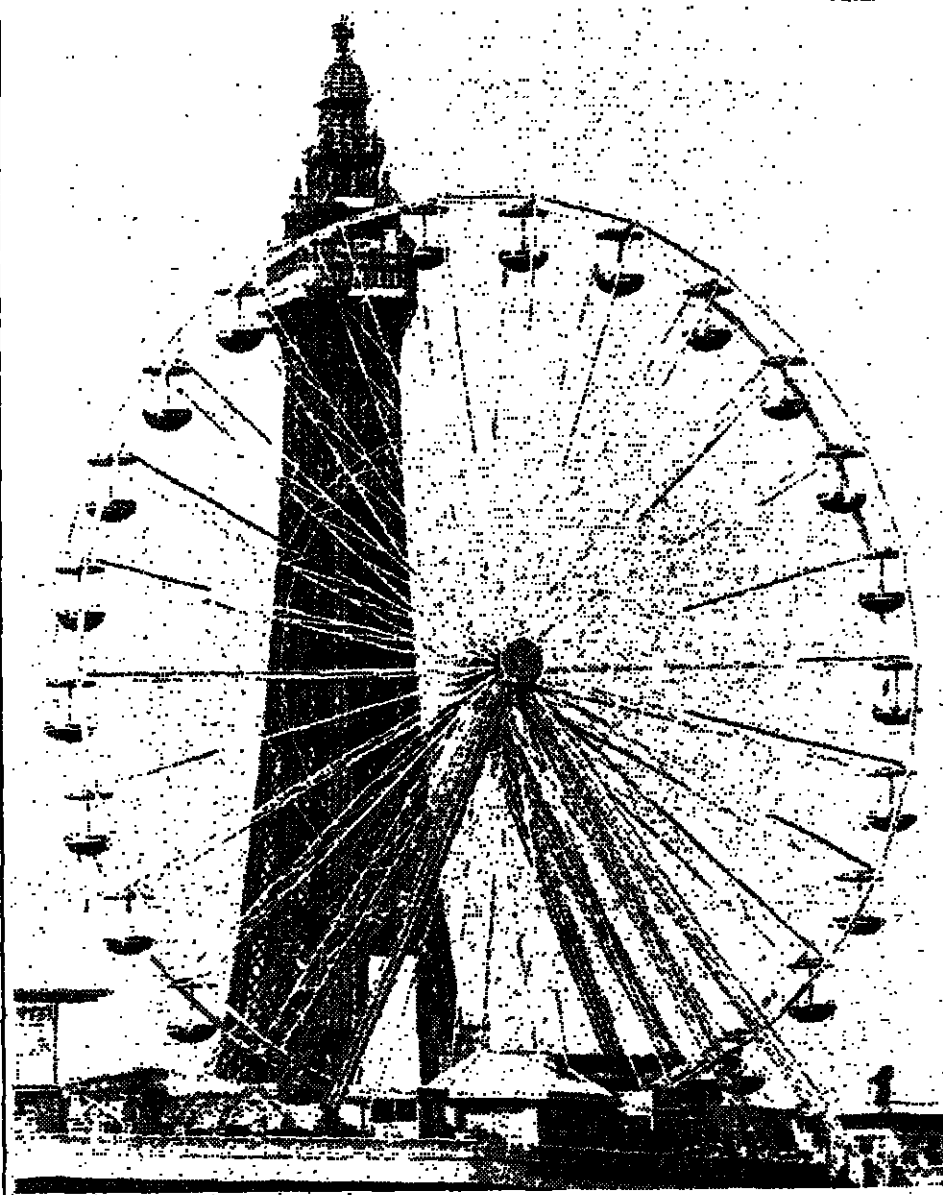
Last night the Department of Education and Science responded: "The Secretary of State has made it clear over recent months that one of his main concerns is to keep paper work for schools to a minimum."

"He has announced a number of measures to this end, the latest of which was earlier this week when he announced new arrangements for the testing of seven-year-olds."

Mr Justice Kennedy told Avon County Council in the High Court yesterday that he had no jurisdiction to stop Bath's 760-pupil Beechen Cliff School from opting out on April 23.

He refused to speed up its application for a judicial review of the decision of the Secretary of State for Education to allow the school to become grant maintained.

Leading article, page 13



The new big wheel commands its place with the Tower on Blackpool's Golden Mile

New wheel rises over Blackpool skyline

THE wheel of fortune has turned the full circle in Blackpool; 60 years ago the big wheel - the only structure to rival the 500ft-high Tower on the skyline - was taken down.

Now a similar giant has been reconstructed at a cost of £3.25 million. First Leisure, owners of the resort's three piers, have built Europe's biggest big wheel out to sea on Central Pier.

Standing more than 180ft high it will carry 200 passengers at a time. It was built in Holland and assembled on the specially strengthened pier last week. After undergoing trials the new wheel will open on Good Friday.

Back in 1928 the old big wheel was taken down from its place behind the Winter Gardens. It stood 240ft high and carried 900 people at a time. It was built to rival the giant wheel in Vienna.

The carriages were sold off at £13 each and some still remain as bus shelters, pigeon lofts and garden sheds.

Mr Matthew Clements, of First Leisure, said: "The wheel is a magnificent ride. It is out over the sea and the views are breathtaking."

One of the actual carriages from the original big wheel is still being used as a cafe in the nearby village of St Michaels.

Complaints over solicitors stay level at 18,000

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

BREACHING of professional standards was the biggest single category of complaint among the 18,000 made to the Solicitors' Complaints Bureau last year, according to its annual report today.

Those complaints, covering conflict of interest, breaches of undertakings and of Law Society Council directions, and non-payment of counsel's fees, accounted for about 45 per cent of all complaints, it says.

Complaints of delay made up 25 per cent. But for the first time since the bureau was set up three years ago, complaints against solicitors have stayed at the same level as the year before.

Mr Peter Thompson, the director, said: "Complaints seem at long last to have reached a plateau. We must hope that the future trend will be downwards."

He thought the reasons for the levelling off could be that more people were going back to their solicitors and asking for explanations, as advised by the bureau.

The total number of new complaints to the bureau remained roughly constant at 17,808, although the total number of new matters (including inquiries) rose 9 per cent on 1988 to 24,587.

There were just over 16,000 complaints from the public, and nearly 5,000 from other solicitors (many on behalf of clients); but both totals include matters outside the bureau's powers.

The report also notes a dramatic cut of 25 per cent in the backlog of cases awaiting action as a result of a "determined onslaught" by the bureau.

The bureau says complaints of delay are inevitably linked with cases where inadequate services or "shoddy work" is complained of; although it points out that work may still be done meticulously, and take too long.

There are four recurring problem areas: chief is failure to communicate adequately with clients and report developments. This often

arises where solicitors have given oral advice and then failed to confirm in writing.

Another problem is "cut price conveyancing". The solicitor's file may contain very few letters, and little information because of the use of standard forms and letters.

As a result the client may not know of any possible restrictions on the property, or who has actually done the work in the solicitor's office, the report says.

Most of the 2,729 cases that came before the adjudication committee last year concerned delay and allegations of inadequate professional services.

The report says that in 1989, 2,500 solicitors were caught by new regulations on filing accountant's reports on time.

Rule change may help sex victims

Women alleging rape and child victims of sexual abuse may be helped in pursuing their cases in the courts under proposals by the Law Commission to abolish the corroboration rules (Frances Gibb writes).

Under these rules, the judge has to warn the jury it would be dangerous to convict on the strength of a witness's evidence in two main categories of case: witnesses who are accomplices; and those who are victims of sexual offences.

In a consultation paper, the Law Commission - which has been invited to consider corroboration rules by the Government - proposes these should now be abolished.

The present rules are complex and inflexible, it concludes, and similar rules in several other countries have been abolished or reformed.

Mr Alan Cope, of the Law Commission, yesterday said in the case of sexual offences the rules may act as a deterrent to complainants and could mean a jury failing to convict because of the warning.

Manx budget keeps the taxman at bay

SOME budgets are more equal than others, and none more so than on the Isle of Man whose 1990 budget yesterday proves that one can still live the life of a tax exile without having to win the pools.

In his first Manx budget since taking office last December, Mr Donald Gelling, the island's Treasury Minister, has managed to keep just about everyone happy and the taxman with little to do.

Personal allowances are to go up by 25 per cent to £5,000 per person. The standard rate of income tax, meanwhile, stays at 15 per cent, with a higher rate of 20 per cent for top earners and companies.

A married couple will have to earn £26,000 before paying the higher rate, and a married man earning £15,000 a year whose wife is not working will pay £1,500 income tax, compared with £3,819 in the rest of the United Kingdom.

Mr Gelling said: "These measures will mean that 88 per cent of potential tax payers in the Isle of Man (population 68,000) will either pay no tax

or pay at a standard rate of 15 per cent."

He also announced special payments of £7.50 a week for pensioners over 75 and free television licences to senior citizens on supplementary benefits.

For those prone to illness, the healthy news was that prescription charges are to be held at £1 compared with £3.05 per item on the mainland. Eye and dental checks will continue to be free.

Mr Gelling told the Tynwald, the Manx parliament: "It shows in a practical way the Isle of Man government's commitment to a caring and sharing society."

The Manx Government is also to subsidize the price of unleaded petrol to encourage more of the island's motorists to "go green". The caring and practical Mr Gelling explained that this was to help improve the environment, if only in a small way.

If there is a sudden rise in the island's population, however, it will not, one suspects, be for just the cheaper petrol.



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مکان من الاصل

Shevardnadze sets out vision of united Europe

From Frederick Bonnard
Brussels

A VISION of a Greater Europe, also embracing the United States and Canada, has been revealed by Mr Edward Shevardnadze, the Soviet Foreign Minister.

In an article to be published next month he argues that it could be achieved by creating a formal framework for the Helsinki process, based initially on a joint structure of Nato and the Warsaw Pact. A united Germany could perhaps be a member of both.

Mr Shevardnadze states his firm belief in the profound involvement of the US in Europe, and sees the need, for the foreseeable future, for the continued existence of both power blocs, albeit transformed into closely co-operating political-military alliances.

At the same time, although he remains opposed to the exclusive adherence of a united Germany to Nato, he envisages a compromise.

In the article, written for *Nato's*

Sixteen Nations, the independent Brussels-based magazine dealing with international security issues, Mr Shevardnadze proposes the transformation of the 35-member Conference for Security and Co-operation in Europe into a structured organization.

The conference, made up of all the European states except Albania and including the US and Canada, originally signed a Final Act in Helsinki in 1975 which set the guidelines for human rights, economic co-operation and a security balance. It has met periodically since to review the results of its decisions, but has no formal organizational structure.

Mr Shevardnadze suggests a set of essential political mechanisms to institutionalize the process. He proposes the formation of a Greater Europe Council, consisting of the 35 heads of government and meeting every two years.

The agenda for this supreme body would be prepared by a committee of Greater Europe foreign ministers meeting once or twice a year and served by a

permanent co-ordinating commission. A secretariat with a staff of experts and administrative personnel would be set up in a permanent headquarters in a city to be selected by the council. Security would be enhanced by the creation of a "war risk reduction centre" and a verification co-ordinating centre. It could also have certain peace-keeping functions which could be based on a force provided by both Nato and the Warsaw Pact.

Mr Shevardnadze sees it as a formal regional organization, as described in Article VIII of the United Nations Charter, whose decisions would be based on "consensus, universality and reciprocal rights and obligations".

Its main task would be to actively settle conflicts and disputes between members, which he considers of crucial importance. "Crisis of some kind or another cannot be ruled out in Europe — either today or in the future," he writes.

Pointing out that UN involvement is not always appropriate or effective, he sees the need for "a more flexible and,

above all, a less remote regional body which would be able to perform a mediating and peace-keeping function in the early stages of tension".

In this he sees Nato and the Warsaw Pact acting as partners. He considers them to be an essential element of security at present and emphasizes that no power vacuum must be allowed to develop.

Mr Shevardnadze recommends that a joint consultative and co-ordination structure should be established on a bloc-to-bloc basis. The Warsaw Pact and Nato should establish permanent ties, such as direct links between their governing bodies, as well as regular contacts between senior military personnel. Political and military problems, and possibly a broader range of issues, could be discussed by experts at joint meetings.

Concerning Germany, Mr Shevardnadze writes: "It would be erroneous to begin building German unity by destroying the existing security systems without having replaced them with new ones."

While reiterating that a united Germa-

ny's membership of Nato is unacceptable to the Soviet Union, he acknowledges that a non-aligned and demilitarized status is unacceptable to the West and sees the need for compromise. This, he suggests, might be found in the country's "dual membership" of both alliances.

Although this is an apparent paradox, he sees it as a pragmatic way out of emerging difficulties and a contribution to overcoming the division of Europe.

He recognizes that the German unification process is inevitable and that, although the Soviet Union continues to believe that a united Germany should be militarily non-aligned and demilitarized, it must be a "fully equal member of today's family of nations and become a state like all other states".

He adds that it should declare that it will not have nuclear, chemical or other weapons of mass destruction — a point which has already been emphasized by the present Federal German Government.

Mr Shevardnadze's article appears to

be a formal policy statement by the Soviet Union. Although he incorporates ideas which have already been aired — in particular that of some form of institutionalization of the Helsinki process which has been voiced by Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the West German Foreign Minister, to whom he refers — this is the first time that the concept is produced as a proposal for action.

The idea of German dual membership of both alliances would have the merit of overcoming the obvious difficulties of stationing Soviet as well as American and other Western forces on German territory; it would, however, remain an open-ended entitlement for a Soviet military presence there which the new Germany might find difficult to accept.

For the Soviet Union, the proposals would seem to be a new way of integrating itself into the international political process on the basis of co-operative dialogue instead of antagonistic confrontation.

Frederick Bonnard is editor of *Nato's* *Sixteen Nations*.

Gorbachev threatens direct rule in Lithuania

From Michael Binyon, Moscow

PRESIDENT Gorbachev yesterday described Lithuania's declaration of independence as an "adventure" and an "overnight coup", and said direct presidential rule might have to be introduced in the breakaway republic if the situation got worse.

Answering questions at the opening of the congress of the Komsomol — Young Communist League — the Soviet leader said direct rule was only an extreme measure, however, to be used if the situation developed into civil war.

At present the Kremlin was trying to find a political solution, and he did not regard the situation as irreversible. The Soviet leadership was trying to persuade Vilnius to cancel its unilateral declaration of independence last month.

Mr Gorbachev said a referendum should be held on the republic's future. He believed Lithuanians would favour an independence that kept links with all republics in the Soviet Union. "This problem should be resolved by reforming the federation, not dividing it," Tass quoted him as saying yesterday.

The President's spokesman also gave the first hints of economic sanctions, saying many Soviet firms were now expressing concern about contracts with Lithuania. Mr Arkady Maslennikov, the newly appointed spokesman of the Presidential Council, noted pointedly that although it was premature to talk of an economic blockade, a break in

political relations could have economic consequences. He said Soviet raw materials were far cheaper than those bought on the world market.

He also urged Vilnius to stop enacting new laws that were unconstitutional. He said that in the past month some 80 had been passed that contradicted Soviet legislation. "This is a form of confrontation, unproductive and leading to a dead end."

Meanwhile, President Vyntas Landsbergis of Lithuania appealed yesterday to President Gorbachev not to carry out threatened political and economic measures against the republic.

He sent a telegram yesterday to Mr Gorbachev, addressing him as "esteemed president". The telegram said: "We are very concerned that ultra-rightist imperial forces are compelling you to take a wrong step: to continue the wrongs of the 1940s in the Baltics. Do not further this, please; in the name of peace, justice and concord on Earth, do not do this."

Lithuania was forcibly annexed by the Soviet Union in 1940 with the other Baltic republics, Estonia and Latvia. Those two republics have declared their intention to seek independence but are proceeding more cautiously than Lithuania.

Soviet newspapers and television gave prominence yesterday to the decision on Monday by the Presidential Council threatening economic and political measures against Lithuania.

And throughout the country official bodies stepped up their denunciations of Lithuania's actions.

STOCKHOLM: The Soviet authorities have halted a four-day visit to Lithuania by a Swedish "cultural delegation" headed by Mr Pierre Schori, Swedish Foreign Ministry Permanent Under Secretary, which was due to start next Wednesday by refusing its members visas (Christopher Mosley writes).

A separate visit by Mr Lars Werner, leader of the Swedish Communist Party, scheduled for Monday has also been stopped.

Tbilisi: A senior Georgian official yesterday ruled out independence for the southern Soviet republic until it became economically self-sufficient (Reuter reports).

"Georgia cannot just put its hat on and say goodbye to the Soviet Union," the First Deputy Prime Minister, Mr Otar Kvilitaia, said in an interview. "It is a complex process, it has a long way to go and it is not easy."

Appeal to help aborigines

Sydney — The Australian Government was yesterday asked to take urgent action against the deprivation and entrenched racism reported in the first national survey of living conditions among Aboriginal children (Robert Cockburn writes).

The survey was conducted by a leading church group and the National Aboriginal Child Care Secretariat. It noted that the vast majority still live on the periphery of white society and that an embedded degree of racism prevented Aboriginal children from properly participating in the educational system.

Shuttle flight delayed

Washington — The launch of the space shuttle *Discovery*, carrying the Hubble Space Telescope, was delayed yesterday following the failure of a power unit (Peter Stothard writes). NASA said it may be delayed for at least two weeks. The telescope has been built as the biggest advance in astronomy since Galileo.



Across the table: Mr Hurd, left, meeting President Gorbachev, right, and Mr Edward Shevardnadze, second right, in the Kremlin before the start of their talks yesterday

Moscow spells out position on Vilnius

From Michael Binyon, Moscow

BRITAIN'S deep concern over Lithuania was high on the agenda when Mr Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, yesterday had 90 minutes of "extremely forthcoming" confidential talks with President Gorbachev, who reassured him that Moscow wanted to deal with the crisis in an "orderly way".

Mr Hurd said afterwards that the Soviet leader was quite clear about the intense international interest in Lithuania, but had insisted that the Soviet Union would deal with the situation according to its own constitution.

The Foreign Secretary added that he came away with "a clear understanding" of the Soviet position, but he refused to elaborate.

Mr Hurd also discussed the way in which a united Germany could be settled into a stable Europe, and he and Mr Gorbachev agreed that this should be a main topic among the 35 nations in the Conference for Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE).

The Soviet leader, Mr Hurd reported, was in fine form — "in high good humour and full of jokes".

The Gorbachev meeting came after a full round of talks

with Mr Edward Shevardnadze, Mr Hurd's Soviet counterpart, who said Britain and the Soviet Union had entered into a new "partnership" which had achieved great success already.

"We imbue this term with a very concrete and important meaning which reflects both a new level of our bilateral contacts and an ambitious political task for the future," he said in a luncheon speech.

Mr Shevardnadze said both countries were united by their awareness that their many interests in Europe were closely inter-related and required a balanced and careful approach, and specifically praised the ideas put forward by Mrs Thatcher for developing a European security structure.

On German unity, he said it was a mistake to suggest that Moscow was trying to slow down the process. "The Soviet Union has never questioned the right of the German people to self-determination," he said, but this required serious changes in the European military and political landscape.

Mr Hurd and Mr Shevardnadze also reviewed the detailed positions of two of the six working groups set up to

look at the various issues the two sides will cover during the visit — bilateral relations, arms control, terrorism and drugs, CSCE, human rights and the Middle East.

Both sides reached broad agreement on other issues, such as the need to stop missile proliferation, the mechanics for the verification of a chemical weapons ban, and the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, especially in view of Iraq's attempts to acquire nuclear weapon technology.

On the Middle East there was also general agreement. Both sides hoped that a new Israeli Government would be able to begin an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue, although they believe this will not alone be enough to ensure a Middle East settlement.

There was satisfaction with the emigration of Soviet Jews, but both sides agreed that their settlement in the occupied territories, including East Jerusalem, was illegal and represented an obstacle to the peace process.

They also called for a consolidation of the Iran-Iraq ceasefire and for implementation of the Taif agreements to settle the Lebanese conflict.

Kohl dilemma over Berlin vote

From Ian Murray, Bonn

FRANCE has withdrawn its objections to West Berliners being given a vote in December's parliamentary elections in West Germany, posing a delicate problem for Herr Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor.

Herr Kohl must now decide whether giving West Berliners the vote could deprive him of a governing majority.

Since the end of the Second World War, the city has been administered by the four victorious allies. West Berlin was divided between them into zones and the three Western allies have ruled

through a military government. This was renamed as a civilian administration earlier this year.

Under Allied supervision, the West Berliners who run local matters elect a city senate, which nominates 22 members to the Bundestag, where they cannot vote. They have only observer and advisory status.

The Western allies have always fought off pressure to allow direct elections, saying that this would contravene the special status of the city and so perpetuate the division of

Germany. With reunification looming, these arguments have lost their significance. Britain and the United States have said they are "sympathetic" to requests to end the present anomaly — whereby West Berliners are the only Germans who cannot vote for their Government.

Now France is also satisfied that a direct vote will create no difficulties.

The Soviet Union has not indicated whether it would oppose giving West Berliners the same voting rights as East Berliners.

East backs Germany as Nato member

From Anne McElvoy
East Berlin

East Germany's new coalition government will support the Nato membership of a unified Germany, according to its first draft policy document released yesterday.

The conservative (SPD) and liberal parties who worked out their views on Nato membership as the first condition of their co-operation in Parliament want to see Germany in Nato on condition that this is accompanied by "drastic disarmament of all Germany forces".

In the transitional period, the East German Volksarmee troops should remain stationed on East German soil. The document says they should not be commanded by either Nato or the West German Bundeswehr.

The statement, which is seen as illustrating a readiness by the new East German Government to satisfy Moscow's desire for massive troop cuts in Europe as the price of allowing a unified Germany to join Nato, also speaks of the need to hasten the dissolution of the rights of the Allies in Germany and Berlin.

It also sets a target date of July 1 for currency and economic union to be followed by negotiations on a new security policy for Germany to be worked out at the Conference for Security and Co-operation in Europe in the autumn.

The coalition also declared that it considered the Western Polish border as "final and unchangeable".

Walesa to run for president

From Anne Olson, Warsaw

THE SOLIDARITY leader, Mr Lech Walesa, said yesterday that he will run for President of Poland in the next elections, possibly next spring.

"I confirm," Mr Walesa told the Polish news agency PAP, commenting in Gdansk on a report in a Polish newspaper that he would run.

President Jaruzelski, the former Communist Party leader, who starts a visit to Moscow today, was elected by the narrowest of margins to a six-year term by Parliament on July 19, 1989. A parliamentary spokesman said a new election for president would be held only if the current president resigned, died or was charged by Parliament with malfeasance. But there are indications that Mr Jaruzelski would be forced out if the current parliament does not serve out its term, as is widely expected.

The Parliament was elected last June under a formula agreed at the historic round-table talks between Solidarity and the Communist Party, in which Solidarity was allowed to run for only 35 per cent of the seats in the Lower House, or Sejm.

Solidarity parliamentary leaders say since the formula did not truly reflect the will of the people, new elections should be held — possibly next April or May. That would conceivably be followed by another election in Parliament of a President who again would be more representative of the population, they argue.

The report of Mr Walesa's decision to run first surfaced in a newspaper interview with

the Solidarity senator, Mr Jaroslaw Kaczynski.

"The Kaczynskis have done me a big ill turn," Mr Walesa told PAP, referring to the senator and his brother, another prominent Solidarity activist. "They said it too early, and I may lose out to that. Well, we have freedom of the press. I confirm."

Mr Walesa had considered running for both President and Prime Minister last year after the stunning Solidarity victory in the June elections, but took himself out of the running, preferring instead to play a behind-the-scenes role. But his influence on the Prime Minister, Mr Mazowiecki, has waned in recent months as the latter's own popularity has grown, exceeding even that of Mr Walesa in a recent survey.

The Solidarity chief is even beginning to quarrel with his former adviser. Earlier yesterday Mr Walesa led some 2,000 workers on the first protest rally against Mr Mazowiecki, charging him with implementing economic reforms too slowly.

Mr Walesa is also known to be somewhat envious of the success of President Vaclav Havel of Czechoslovakia, who was that country's best-known dissident before the "velvet revolution" last November that swept the communists from power and put Mr Havel in Prague Castle.

The Government was bolstered by the latest economic figures showing that for the first time since its economic stabilization plan went into effect on January 1, wage increases were higher than price increases in March.

Haughey set to confront Thatcher over Euro-unity

From Peter Guilford
Brussels

THE European Community summit in Dublin later this month will take the first concrete steps towards creating a politically united Europe, Mr Charles Haughey, the Irish Prime Minister, has declared. His words could push his already strained relations with Mrs Margaret Thatcher, a staunch opponent of political union, one step nearer to breaking point when he meets her in London a week on Friday.

He said a committee of experts would be charged with the task of exploring political union, laying the groundwork for a second Intergovernmental Conference (IGC) to begin in December alongside the agreed IGC on economic and monetary union. The creation of the group "would be part of the conclusions of the Irish presidency" in Dublin on April 28, said Mr Haughey, who reaffirmed his claim that the Dublin meeting would formally agree to open a second IGC on political union.

The early Dublin summit on April 28 was called in response to the German unification issue, but "political



Mr Haughey: Believes he has support for unity

tens, the Belgian Prime Minister, who has already expressed his desire for a strengthening of the EC's institutions, Mr Haughey believes he has sufficient weight behind him to confront Mrs Thatcher's opposition to political union.

Armed with strong support gathered during his pre-summit tour of the French, German and Italian capitals, together with comfort drawn from Mr Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, whom he believes to be "forthcoming regarding progress on Europe", Mr Haughey may feel confident to challenge Mrs Thatcher head-on at Dublin.

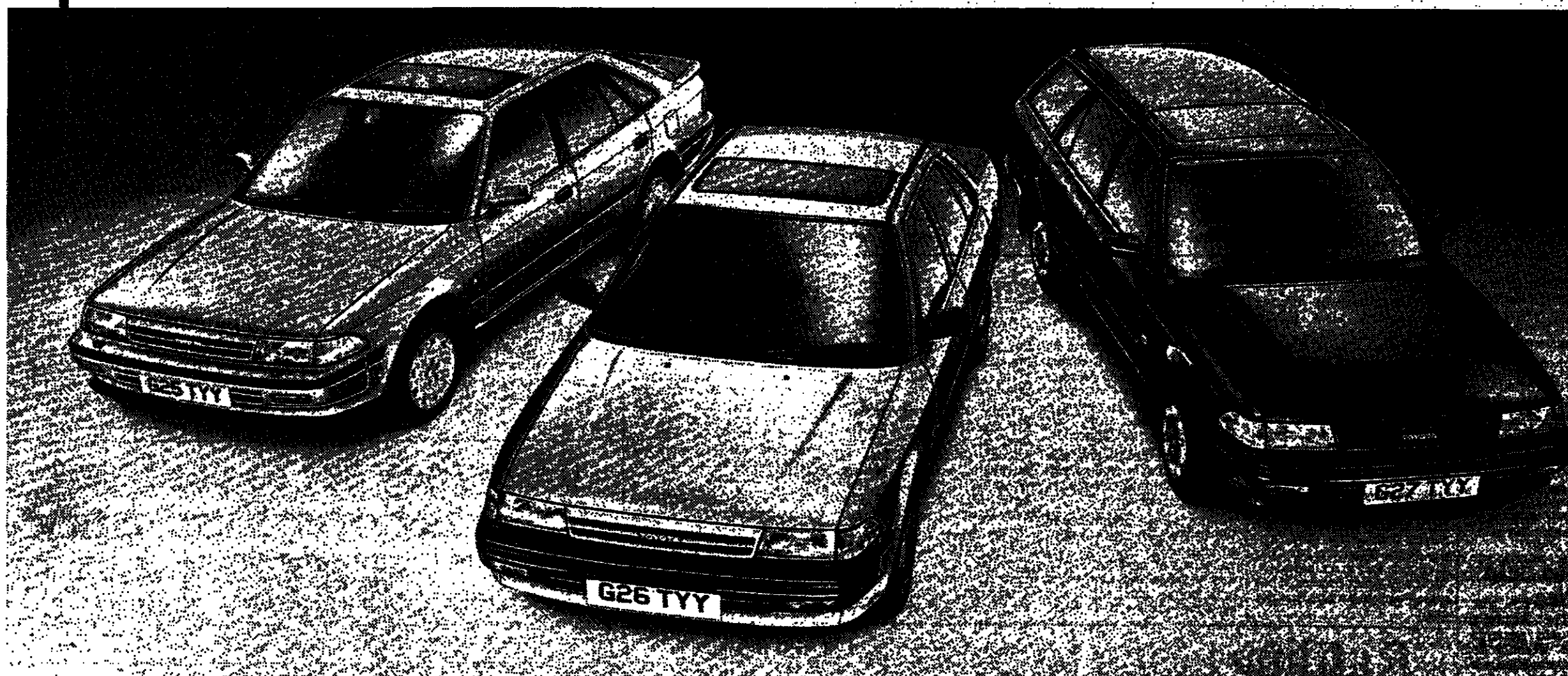
"I would not like to contemplate (moves to political union) without her," he said during a press conference yesterday, "but time is moving on for us all." If Mrs Thatcher tries to block the opening of a second IGC on political union at Dublin, she could face another embarrassing 11-to-1 vote against her.

Her most likely manoeuvre would be to delay the calling of a second conference on the grounds that it will overburden the December talks on economic and monetary union.

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THE KIDNAPPERS

Small comfort for the families of Western captives

From Christopher Walker, Cairo

UNHAPPILY for distraught relatives scattered throughout the world, the fate of the so-called "boat hostages," two of whom were released with their young daughter yesterday is not linked directly to that of the 17 Western hostages held by various pro-Iranian fanatics in Lebanon.

The sharp differentiation between the two groups, the eight adults and children seized from the converted fishing boat *Silco* in November, 1987, and the 17 — including Mr Terry Waite, the Archbishop of Canterbury's special envoy — has always been maintained because of the differences in their captors and their conditions.

The French and Belgian holidaymakers on the *Silco*, some at least followers of an "alternative lifestyle", were held by radical Palestinians directly under the control of their main financial backer, Colonel Gaddafi of Libya. They are understood to have spent most of their captivity in Libya rather than the squalid south Beirut prisons of the remaining hostages.

As one Western observer commented sourly on hearing of yesterday's well stage-managed releases: "It is not easy to imagine people who have been chained to radiators and moved about in coffins being allowed the freedom to conceive a child in captivity, given always that they had someone to conceive it with."

The unpredictable Colonel Gaddafi exercised much more firm control over the followers of Abu Nidal, sometimes described as his "secret weapon", than President Rafsanjani of Iran ever did over Shia Muslim kidnappers allied to the Iranians.

And the kidnapping of the passengers on the boat, at first ludicrously branded as Jews spying for Mossad, the Israeli secret service, did not fit into any particular pattern. Al-

though their boat was initially reported to have been seized off the coast of the Israeli-occupied Gaza strip, repeated reports from France have said that it may have been captured elsewhere in the Mediterranean and that drugs may have been involved.

As a spokesman for Archbishop Robert Runcie said yesterday: "The release of hostages of any nationality by any group is always very welcome news. But the captors in this case are quite different from those holding the British hostages in Lebanon."

So their release brings little direct comfort to the families of the British hostages beyond the hope that it might loosen up the situation of the hostages in Lebanon generally. A source in West Beirut who has followed the hostage drama closely was more outspoken.

"The only hope for the mainstream Western hostages, especially the Britons and Americans, is that the climate will now change," he explained. "Perhaps Western governments will now learn from the French that the only way of securing the freedom of any hostage is to stand up and be counted doing a deal on his or her behalf."

The cynical fashion in which Jacqueline Valente from France and her Belgian lover Fernand Houtekins were set free while four other Belgian passengers were kept in captivity because of the alleged unwillingness of Belgium (unlike France) to meet the asking price was a further reminder of the type of negotiation needed to secure releases.

"Obtaining freedom for hostages is something akin to bargaining in an Arab souk although the stakes are very much higher," said a European diplomat involved in previous secret hostage deals. "If any government thinks it

can get any of its nationals out without at least getting someone competent to haggle on its behalf, it is wrong."

The diplomat, one of those critical of the unwillingness of Britain to recognize the need to strike hostage deals, said that yesterday's releases would also drive home to men such as President Rafsanjani the enormous diplomatic advantages to be secured from a successful hostage release.

The releases followed weeks of intense rumour about the 17 hostages, prompted by attempts to overcome radical opposition and negotiate their freedom. There has also been frenzied speculation about the standing of the Fatah Revolutionary Council of Abu Nidal.

Its founder, whose *nom de guerre* means "Father of the Struggle", has been respectively reported by Arab sources in recent months to have been placed under house arrest by a mellowed Colonel Gaddafi, out to improve his own international image, or to be bedridden in a Libyan hospital with cancer.



Mme Jacqueline Valente, her daughter Sophie-Liberty, and her Belgian boyfriend Mr Fernand Houtekins inside the French Embassy compound in Beirut yesterday

WAITING FOR FREEDOM

Beirut's sad roll call

THE Westerners believed still held in Lebanon:

AMERICANS: 8

Terry Anderson, aged 42, chief Middle East correspondent for AP news agency. Seized March 16, 1985. Reportedly held by Islamic Jihad.

Thomas Sutherland, 57, dean of the agronomy faculty at American University in Beirut (AUB). Seized June 9, 1985, and also thought to be held by Islamic Jihad.

Frank Reed, 56, director of the Lebanese International School. Abducted September 9, 1986. Kidnapping claimed by the Arab Revolutionary Cells of Omar al-Moukhtar (pro-Libyan).

Joseph Cicippio, 60, an accountant at AUB. Seized September 12, 1986. Abduction claimed by the Revolutionary Justice Organization. Edward Austin Tracy, 58, a writer and book salesman. Abducted October 21, 1986. Also claimed by Revolutionary Justice Organization.

Three teachers at Beirut University College, all taken January 24, 1987 (claimed by Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine): Jesse Turner, 48, computer and mathematics teacher; Alan Steen, 47, journalist; Robert Polhill, 57, accountant.

BRITONS: 3

John McCarthy, 35, cameraman and acting bureau chief for Worldwide Television. Seized April 17, 1986. Abduction never claimed.

Terry Waite, 49, the Archbishop of Canterbury's special envoy. Disappeared January 20, 1987. No claim of responsibility.

Jack Mann, 74, retired pilot residing in Lebanon for more than 50 years. Kidnapped May 13, 1989. Claimed by the Cells of the Armed Struggle.

IRISH: 1

Brian Keenan, 36, teacher with dual Irish-British nationality. Disappeared April 11, 1986. Never claimed.

ITALIAN: 1

Alberto Molinari, 68, sales executive. Missing since November 9, 1985. No claim.

WEST GERMANS: 2

Heinrich Straebig, 48, and Thomas Kemptner, 28, employed by the West German aid organization ASME-Humanitas. Missing since May 16, 1989. No claim.

SWISS: 2

Emmanuel Christen and Etio Enriquez, representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross. Disappeared October 6, 1989 near Sidon.

POLITICAL BACKGROUND

Pragmatism is key to success

From Susan MacDonald, Paris

PRESIDENT Mitterrand and his Foreign Minister, M Roland Dumas yesterday personally thanked the Libyan leader Col Gaddafi for his assistance in freeing a French hostage, her Belgian lover and their daughter. Mitterrand thanked Colonel Gaddafi "personally" for his "determining role" in the release and M Dumas expressed gratitude on behalf of the entire French government. "This noble and humanitarian gesture [will be] judged at its true worth in future relations between France and Libya," said M Dumas without elaborating.

The move marks a dramatic improvement in Franco-Libyan relations, which are bound to infuriate Britain and other EC countries. Colonel

Gaddafi is known to have supplied arms and explosives to the IRA and one of the shipments was even intercepted by the French authorities. Tripoli is also known to have kept up its support for the fanatical Abu Nidal terrorist organization, which had been holding the French and Belgian hostages since 1987.

It has never been clear whether these hostages were held in Lebanon or in Libya, but Mme Valente's two older children were released in Tripoli by Colonel Gaddafi with embarrassing pomp and ceremony in 1988 and returned to their father in France.

Only now has the French media hinted that her release hinged on improved Franco-Libyan relations. But the veil which has lain over this hostage-taking will not begin to lift until the other four members of Mr Houtekins family are released.

The improvement came when France decided — despite an European Community embargo on delivering arms to Libya — in early March that it was returning to Libya three Mirage jet fighters sold to Tripoli in the early eighties but impounded in France since 1986 following the embargo.

In addition it announced that spare parts for the repair of "non-offensive" military equipment would be sent to Tripoli. Colonel Gaddafi then announced that the file on certain difficulties between France and Libya had now been closed. He also thanked France for "clearing up all the misunderstandings" over the alleged fire at the Rabta chemicals factory in Libya, said by the US to be manufacturing chemical weapons. Photographs taken by the French Spot-1 satellite showed, contrary to initial American assertions, no traces of a fire in the main building of the plant, which appeared intact.

Good relations with Colonel Gaddafi are essential to maintaining French relations with North Africa and in resolving the problem of Chad. That Colonel Gaddafi has continually let them down does not change this need.

Their wish to play a role in resolving the Middle-East conflict has also led them to treat the release of French hostages in a pragmatic way.

Stories of ransoms paid, improved relations with Iran on the one hand and with Iraq on the other — and of arms sales in connection with a happy outcome for French hostages have not gone away.

Deal is denied by Belgium

From Peter Gulliford, Brussels

BELGIUM'S Government is vigorously denying that any concessions have been made to the Fatah Revolutionary Council of Abu Nidal.

But it has been revealed that two senior Belgian Foreign Ministry officials met a spokesman for Abu Nidal, Mr Walid Khaled, for talks at the Mar Elias Palestinian camp in West Beirut on Monday in order to secure the release of a further four hostages, kidnapped from the same pleasure boat, the *Silco*, off the Libyan coast in November, 1987.

One of the two Belgian officials, Mr Jan Hollants van Looke, told Mr Khaled that Brussels was ready to negotiate the release of the remaining Belgian captives.

The Belgian authorities are under no illusion that yesterday's release was the result of forceful diplomacy by the French, who secured a commitment from the Libyan leader, Colonel Gaddafi, to apply pressure on Abu Nidal. M Roland Dumas, the French Foreign Minister, has already greeted the news of the release yesterday, together with her Belgian boyfriend, Mr Fernand Houtekins and their daughter, with a declaration that "this humanitarian gesture will be appreciated at its proper value in future relations between France and Libya".

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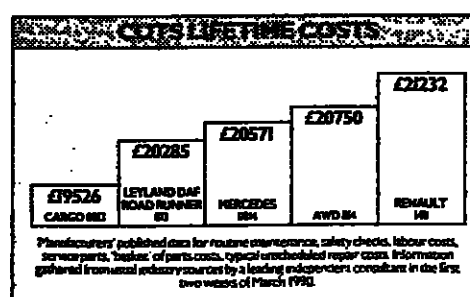
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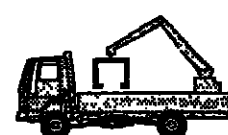
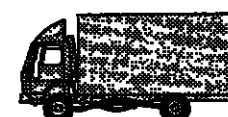
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*Transport News, February 1990, Commercial Motor, 6-12 October 1988.

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ANC rebels appeal to Mandela

From Margaret Heinen
Nairobi

FIVE former guerrillas, who have accused the ANC's military wing of torture and wrongful imprisonment, yesterday appealed to Mr Nelson Mandela, deputy president of the African National Congress, to help get them back to South Africa.

Still claiming loyalty to the ANC's political command and the anti-apartheid cause, the five former members of Umkhonto we Sizwe (Spear of the Nation), want Mr Mandela to intercede with the South African Government.

Without travel documents and a political amnesty they cannot come home. Their allegations of mistreatment by Umkhonto we Sizwe commanders, however, could prove very damaging to the ANC's international reputation.

Their appeal was broadcast from Kenya. Besides assistance in returning home, they are also seeking assurances that they will not suffer retribution from ANC loyalists.

In Cape Town on Monday, Archbishop Desmond Tutu also added his voice to their requests. He had been approached by the former ANC cadres while attending an all-African Conference of Churches in Nairobi.

The five are Mr Luvu Mbongo (travel name, Valdez Sibongile); Mr Amos Moxongo (Edward Glamini);

Mr Bandile Ketelo (Jackie Molese); Mr Zamuxolo Tshona (Simla Molese), and Mr Ronnie Masango (Singer Ramoshaba). A sixth member of the group is Ms Selinah Mlangeni, Mr Moxongo's nine-month pregnant wife.

Last February they illegally crossed the Tanzanian border into Kenya, leaving behind 10 other members who fled the ranks of the ANC in December.

Several of them were known to have attempted to re-enter South Africa via Malawi, but their whereabouts or status are not currently known. Mr Ketelo said: "In the past we have tried to ensure that these things would be solved by the membership of the ANC



Ronnie Masango: Plea to return to South Africa

alone. But we have never been given any hearing or platform to explain our activities within the ANC. Instead we were silenced by executive orders."

The defectors fled following South African infiltration of groups involved in the struggle against apartheid. Many ANC cadres were suspected of being enemy agents and purges were carried out resulting in interrogation, torture and deaths.

The five, like many other black South African youths in the 1970s, were politically involved in grassroots movements such as Cosas (Confederation of South African Students) and SASM (South African Students Movement).

They felt outraged and helped in the wake of the murder of Steve Biko, the leader of the Black Consciousness Movement, and the violence in Soweto unleashed by the South African Defence Forces (SADF).

The youths began to flee from South Africa and turned towards the ANC, hoping to join the armed struggle, or, simply in an attempt to get their hands on weapons to defend their lives and convictions.

None of the five expected to endure torture, hard labour, and imprisonment.

After being indoctrinated into the movement and trained in East German and Soviet military camps, the guerrillas became disoriented, suffering years of exile in intellectual and, apparently,

moral decay. Mr Tshona recounted two operations in which he smuggled drugs, diamonds, and stole luxury vehicles for Umkhonto we Sizwe officers.

"Certain members of Umkhonto were getting fat from the blood and sweat of the cadres," he said.

During the early 1980s their discontent became focused on several members of the Umkhonto leadership.

Mr Christopher Hani, current chief of staff of the movement's military wing, who enjoyed the confidence of the cadres at that time, has also since fallen from grace in the eyes of Umkhonto cadres.

In 1981, following the exposure of heavy infiltration of Umkhonto ranks by South African forces, brutal purges occurred. Innocent cadres, who had doubts about the leadership, were branded with the same iron - as enemy agents.

Large numbers of ANC fighters were rounded up, imprisoned, and tortured. Several died during interrogation.

The five admit that their ranks were well-infiltrated, but it was the heavy-handed reaction, they say, which turned some to the other side.

Suicides within the camps in Angola escalated amid the "reign of terror". In 1983, the ANC launched an offensive alongside the FAPLA (Angolan People's Liberation Army) forces on the eastern front of Angola against Unita.

The Umkhonto forces,

fierce and well-trained fighters known as "bald heads" to Unita, scored successes. But after they suffered the loss of a platoon of cadres, they began to seriously question the value of their operation in Angola.

"I think this was true for a majority of the membership because the people would like to see change within South Africa. As far as the armed struggle is concerned, it has proven futile in our situation, not because we are not capable of destroying the racist regime through the use of arms, but because certain elements engaged in these activities were damaging to the morale of the armed forces," said Mr Ketelo of the situation in Angola.

Political observers and others close to the ANC question the ability of the ANC, then or now, to wage a successful military campaign against the South African Defence Forces.

However, the five maintain that the best means to advance the armed struggle is to fight in the country against their own enemy - the strongest supporter of right-wing rebel groups such as Unita.

When they refused to fight against Unita, they were taken to camps including the notorious ANC prison Quatro.

In a response to the subsequent imprisonment, torture, mysterious disappearances, and deaths of fellow fighters, those cadres who remained at the Pango Camp in Angola stormed the camp armory, killing several officers.

Surfer's escape from shark



Peter McCulkin, an Australian surfer, who escaped with cuts and bruises when his surfboard was bitten by a tiger shark at Queensland's Greenmount Beach

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Turkey clamps down on press

By Hazhir Teimourian

TURKEY yesterday imposed press censorship and other restrictive measures in its battle against Kurdish insurgents.

The action came a day after President Ozal declared that the Government would pursue a "military solution" to the problem.

The official gazette in Ankara announced that all reports and analyses of the south-eastern region of the country about to appear in the press or broadcast by state-controlled radio and television would be censored to ensure that they "reflected the truth" and "do not pose a threat to the rule of law".

Regional governors would have the power to confiscate presses and fine offenders up to 100 million Turkish lira (£25,000).

In addition, the governor of the south-eastern region has been empowered to send individuals into internal exile in other regions if he "deemed them a threat to public order".

Despite earlier hopes that the Government might reform the state Constitution to give limited rights to the country's "mountain-Turks", Mr Ab-

dulkadir Aksoy, the Interior Minister, declared at the weekend that "force is the only fitting response to terrorism." He was speaking about Sunday's clash between the Turkish Army and guerrillas of the Marxist Kurdistan Workers' Party.

More than 20 guerrillas were said to have been killed when government forces ambushed their column in the rugged Hakkari province, which lies in the corner formed by the borders with Iran and Iraq.

As more Kurds were arrested yesterday and as more peasants abandoned their ancestral villages to escape the fighting in the countryside, there were signs that the newly enlarged presence of the troops in the towns was itself deepening the alienation of the Kurds.

Nearly 2,500 people have been killed on both sides since Mr Abdullah Ocalan, a lawyer, formed the first band of the guerrillas in 1984.

He is said to have his main headquarters in the Bekaa Valley of Lebanon.

The new press restrictions met immediate criticism by opposition parties.

Mugabe gives a sop to Nkomo

From Jan Kaseh, Harare

PRESIDENT Mugabe's new Cabinet appointments announced yesterday show he is in no mood for innovation as he embarks on the second decade of his leadership of Zimbabwe.

In the run-up to the elections he said that "major changes" in the make-up of the administration were being planned. But the 26-member Cabinet is almost exclusively the same coterie of ministers

and senior officials of the ruling Zanu (PF) Party that has surrounded Mr Mugabe since independence in 1980.

Some eyebrows were raised at the minor recognition given to Mr Joshua Nkomo's former opposition Zapu Party, which merged with Zanu (PF) in December last year after decades of bitter conflict.

Mr Nkomo, however, is accorded a position of nominal strength as one of two vice-presidents, sharing the status with Mr Simon Muzenda, the elder statesman of Zanu (PF). Only two other Cabinet posts went to former Zapu members.

The former grouping now has as much representation as the white community of about 90,000 - with three appointments to technical ministries. Significantly, two of them will deal with the country's most severe problems.

Mr Denis Norman, a tobacco magnate who was in Mr Mugabe's first post-independence Cabinet, is the new Transport Minister with the heavy responsibility of unsmoothing a rail and road crisis that threatens the viability of the national economy.

Welsh-born Dr Timothy Stamps, an outspoken Harare city councillor and general practitioner, is the new Minister of Health. He will be in charge of tackling the AIDS situation which is nearing crisis proportions. According to estimates, AIDS may kill up to 20 per cent of the population in the next five years.

Concern for the growing unpopularity of Zanu (PF) has led Mr Mugabe to make several appointments to the Ministry of Political Affairs. This ministry, established to run the ruling party, is funded by the Zimbabwean taxpayer. Legal experts say this is in violation of the constitution.

But eight of the 40 Cabinet ministers, deputy ministers and ministers of state are affiliated to this ministry.

Brigadier Felix Muchemwa.

UK persuades four countries to accept Hong Kong people

By Jonathan Brande in Hong Kong and Andrew McEwen in London

BRITAIN announced yesterday that at least four countries are to offer passports to Hong Kong residents in response to personal appeals by Mrs Thatcher and other ministers.

When news of the British approach first emerged earlier this year, optimism was said to be premature. Since then, however, some progress has been made: 20 nations have been approached and the response is said to have been "very encouraging".

At the same time, without being asked, other countries are offering passports or considering doing so. Argentina, which has just opened a consulate in Hong Kong, has told the Foreign Office that it is interested in the idea.

South Africa, too, is considering applications from wealthy Hong Kong families, and Tonga and Fiji have made some passports available to people who have what are described as sufficient assets.

There has also been a rush of attempts by foreign entrepreneurs to profit from the desperation of Hong Kong families to obtain foreign passports. A Venezuelan diplomat was sent home recently on suspicion of taking bribes to supply passports, and advertisements have appeared in Chinese-language newspapers offering passports for Pacific islands that do not

exist. Several agencies have sprung up offering to obtain passports.

All these moves will further anger Peking, which, fearing that it will be the victim of a form of human asset-stripping, has bitterly attacked the British Government's proposals to offer passports to 50,000 key Hong Kong workers and their families.

Mr Francis Maude, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, who is visiting Hong Kong, made it clear, however, that Britain has not been put off by Peking's objections.

He said France was to give passports or entry papers to 500 employees of French firms in Hong Kong, while Germany, Belgium and Luxembourg were drawing up similar schemes.

Singapore had already introduced a scheme covering up to 25,000 heads of households and, even before the appeal, Australia had relatively flexible immigration rules.

Canada's rules on immigration prevent it giving passports to non-residents but, Mr Maude said, Ottawa supported Britain's aims of ensuring Hong Kong's continued prosperity by giving people the confidence to stay there.

Large numbers of Hong Kong people have moved to Vancouver for long enough to establish residence, afterwards

dividing their time between Hong Kong and Canada.

"These developments ... show how the effect of our (nationalities) package can be multiplied," Mr Maude said.

Mr Maude's remarks surprised diplomats of at least one of the countries he mentioned. The West German consulate in Hong Kong expressing astonishment, saying it knew nothing of changes in immigration policy.

● GENEVA: The UN High Commissioner for Refugees has welcomed Britain's decision not to send Vietnamese boat people home from Hong Kong against their will as long as some of them continue to apply for voluntary repatriation (Alan McGregor writes).

"This allows time for the voluntary programme to demonstrate its full potential," Mr Raymond Hall, a spokesman for the Commissioner said yesterday, as another group of 133 Vietnamese boat people reportedly left Hong Kong for home under the voluntary repatriation scheme. "As more go back, more are coming forward to apply," he said.



Final touches to the statue of Marcus Aurelius after nine years of restoration work

Marcus Aurelius rides back to eternal glory

From Paul Bompard, Rome

THE equestrian statue of the Emperor Marcus Aurelius, for centuries a symbolic landmark of the Eternal City, returns today to the Campidoglio Hill overlooking Rome, nine years after it was removed for drastic and urgent restoration.

The horse and rider, believed to date from 176 AD, will be placed on two lorries with special shock absorbers to avoid vibrations. Moving at a snail's pace while police hold up traffic, the Emperor and his horse will take two hours to cover two miles from the Central Restoration Institute's laboratories in Trastevere to the Campidoglio.

The procession will be watched with joy by enthusiastic Romans. But to their dismay, the bronze and gold statue will no longer be the centrepiece of the piazza designed by Michelangelo, where it was placed in 1538.

Instead it will occupy a specially-built glass-fronted room in the Capitoline museum next to the piazza.

"During the restoration we realized that it would be madness to expose the bronze once again to rain, air pollution and bird droppings," explained Signora Alessandra Vaccaro Melucco, who coordinated the team of restor-

ers. "Bronze does, in a sense, produce its own patina which protects the metal underneath. But not against the corrosive pollutants that we have in the air today."

"There is no doubt that Marcus Aurelius has suffered more over the past 50 years than during its first 1,800 years."

Art historians and city authorities are now discussing whether to place a bronze copy of the statue in the piazza, or to leave the marble plinth empty as a symbolic warning against air pollution.

The Marcus Aurelius, which assembled on its plinth is almost 18 ft high, should take today's trip in its stride.

After it was cast to honour the philosopher-emperor, it was placed in the Lateran Piazza. With the advent of Christianity, it was spared destruction because it was mistaken for Constantine, the Christian Emperor.

In 1538 Pope Paul III had it moved to the top of the Capitoline Hill, rebuilt under Michelangelo's direction.

Its most recent move was in 1944, after the first bombing raid on Rome. It was trussed up and moved into Rome's city hall until 1945. In 1979, a terrorist bomb in the piazza chipped its marble base.



Rioters killed in Chinese unrest

From Catherine Sampson, Peking

CHINESE troops have been mobilized in the past few days to quell Muslim rioting in the north-west region of Xinjiang, which borders the volatile Soviet Central Asian Republics. The extent of the unrest in Xinjiang is not yet clear.

Travellers returning to Peking from Urumqi, the capital of Xinjiang, said they had heard there that rioting broke out last Friday near the city of Kashgar on the ancient Silk Road to the Middle East. Several plane-loads of troops were flown into Kashgar and two other towns, Khotan and

Kuqa, where they brought knife-wielding rioters under control, killing some of them. Diplomats believe the travellers' reports to be essentially accurate.

It is not yet known, however, why the rioting started or how many rioters were killed by troops. Kashgar airport has now been closed, officially because of bad weather. The only other way to the city is to take a 700-mile bus ride.

Officials in Peking have denied the reports of rioting and troop mobilization, while officials in Xinjiang have refused to answer questions, or have said simply that they are not sure what is happening. These latest reports of unrest come after repeated official warnings to Xinjiang from leaders in Peking about the dangers of ethnic unrest, and the existence of trouble "hot-spots" in the region.

Journalists and diplomats applying for permission to visit Xinjiang in recent months have been refused repeatedly. The area around Kashgar is sometimes closed completely to foreigners because of disease epidemics, but sources suggest that Xinjiang appears to be off-limits to journalists and diplomats partly, at least, because of ethnic unrest.

As Muslim fundamentalism grows in the Soviet Central Asian republics, officials have repeatedly expressed concern that it might spread to China.

Austrian train gang net £1.8m

Vienna - Guzman who attacked an Austrian train and killed a guard escaped with \$3 million (£1.8 million), police said here yesterday. The three masked men attacked the train bound from Linz to Vienna on Monday.

They shot Herbert Filtz, aged 50, when he tried to intervene. The train was carrying sacks of Austrian and foreign bank notes intended for the National Bank of Austria. It was Austria's first train robbery.

Outsider wins

Sydney - Mr Tim Fischer, an outsider, has taken over Australia's National Party after its routing in last month's election which unseated Mr Charles Blunt.

Inflation soars

Buenos Aires - The cost of living rose 95.5 per cent in March, the Government's statistical office announced, the third largest climb in Argentina's history.

Violence fear

Karachi - Soldiers blocked roads in Pakistan and swarmed through a city hospital fearing that a student leader wounded at the weekend could die, setting off more violence.

Pig protest

Brussels - A plan to stem an outbreak of swine plague in Belgium by destroying 150,000 pigs ran into trouble when four towns barred officials from collecting livestock.

Control ends

Ulaan Bator - Mr Gombosavyn Ochirbat, the Mongolian Communist Party General Secretary, has declared an end to seven decades of control over trade unions, artists and scientists.

Hot-cross bun story can be told

From Richard Long, Wellington

NEW ZEALAND'S Education Minister, Mr Phil Goff, stepped in yesterday to reject a ruling that kindergarten children in Wellington could not be told the reason for the crosses on Easter hot-cross buns.

Mr Goff said the ruling by the Wellington suburban kindergarten of Northland was nonsense and there was no reason why the story of the buns should not be explained "in an appropriate manner".

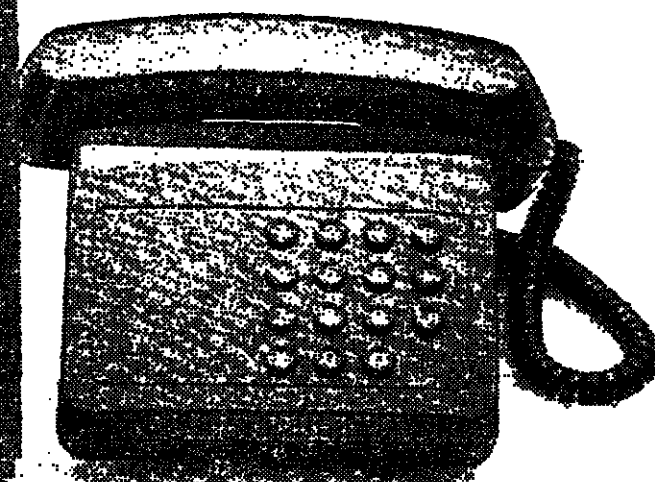
His comment followed a complaint by Mrs Sandy Dean, a Wellington mother who wanted to bring hot-cross buns for the pupils and to explain why Easter was celebrated, but was told by staff that there was a strict policy of no religious education. After Mr Goff's comments the school said a teacher would tell the story of Easter.

● Milk concern: The Government has been further embarrassed by reports that New Zealand babies, born in a land flowing with milk, are being fed on imported milk from the United States and Australia.

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TIMES DIARY

RICHARD FORD

Understandably, ministers have been reluctant to reveal the identity of the first Conservative-controlled council that would have been caught under the complex arrangements for community charge capping. Chris Patten, the Environment Secretary, told the Commons when he set out his criteria for capping 20 councils that he would have to catch 60 before he got to a Tory one. Labour MPs argued in reply that the conditions had been deliberately set to exclude Conservative-run authorities. For the benefit of the curious, I can reveal which Tory council would have been the first to feel the full force of the Patten rules: the honour goes to Kensington and Chelsea, where the poll tax is £380 a head.

As the Labour front-bench grows increasingly impatient to get its hands on the red ministerial boxes of government, I hear that a serious clash of egos is developing between two aspiring secretaries of state, Michael Meacher (social security) and Robin Cook (health). The day before the recent Commons debate on financial support for pensioners in private nursing homes, Cook was told that it would be Tony Newton, the Social Security Secretary, not Kenneth Clarke, the Health Secretary, who would speak on behalf of the



Meacher: thunder stolen

Government. Protocol therefore dictated that Meacher, shadow to Newton, should lead the Labour attack. Cook, however, who knew there were stirrings of a Tory revolt, stayed mum. At midnight, sitting in the Commons library, Meacher was stunned to see Newton's name on the monitor which shows who is speaking in the Chamber. But it was too late. The ambitious Cook had already made a dramatic speech for Labour, grabbing the glory and the headlines, as the Government suffered a rare defeat. But Meacher managed to get a little of his own back. When Newton announced a climbdown two weeks later, with £45 million extra aid for pensioners, Cook issued a triumphant press release, rejoicing in Labour's "great victory", while Meacher produced a similar missive, commenting sourly that it was insignificant.

Actor Stephen Rea's synchronized voice-over of Gerry Adams's words in an interview to be broadcast on Channel 4 tonight is so complete that it includes coughing by the president of Sinn Féin.

The timing of the Broadway opening of Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Aspects of Love* proved a hit with John Gummer, the Agriculture Minister and a great friend of the composer. The curtain went up on the award-winning show the night before Gummer was due to meet his opposite number in Washington, a short shuttle flight



Webber: ministerial fan

from New York. Mixing business with pleasure, Gummer flew out early with his wife, Penelope, and one of their children to join guests at the first night performance. The critics were sharply divided; the Gummerts enthralled.

What an ally long-suffering users of London Regional Transport have in its chairman, Wilfrid Newton. Hailing the miracle of transporting 6 million people daily, he admitted last night that for most commuters the miracle is transporting people who don't really want to travel, at a time they don't want to leave, from a point they would rather not start from, to a place they don't want to go. For good measure he said they travel in conditions they find uncomfortable and at fares they think too high. And that is on a good day.

This is the column to boost sales of over-priced Easter eggs. Last week my colleague Nigel Williamson reported that, at a hefty £7 each, those on sale at the House of Commons kiosk were not exactly selling like hot cross buns. He also reported that Sir Charles Irving, Conservative MP for Cheltenham, had brought a smile to prime ministerial lips by presenting her with one. That it seems to be the spur for other Tory MPs desperate to pledge their loyalty. As a result, the kiosk has been restricting MPs to two eggs each.

Christians should be wary of regarding blasphemy as a crime, for Christ himself is said to have been convicted on such a charge by the religious authorities of his day. And in today's increasingly secular society, the very notion of accusing someone of blasphemy against God appears to many people a quaint one. Furthermore, for many in the West, blasphemy is now distastefully associated with the Islamic death threats against Salman Rushdie over *The Satanic Verses*.

The present moves to repeal the law making blasphemy a criminal offence in Britain should therefore be no cause for surprise. On the other hand, many Muslims and others want the protection now afforded to Christianity to be extended to cover other religions.

There are three stages in the establishment of a crime of blasphemy. The law's original impulse is to defend God from being insultingly "misnamed", to use the original meaning of the term. From that it is a small step to thinking blasphemy akin to heresy, defending the divinely revealed truths about God which go to make up a religious faith. The third stage is to shift the focus of attention further, from the body of truths to be defended

to the body of the believers who adhere to a particular faith. Blasphemy then is viewed as an offence against the deeply held religious convictions of a particular group.

At each of these stages, a basic question can be raised. Does God's honour need protecting? Does religion need protecting? Do people's religious feelings need protecting?

Believers may grieve profoundly at the thought of the One who is the object of their deepest adoration and love being abused. Yet insulting God harms not Him, but what might be called the religious chivalry of the believer.

In the first flush of his conversion, the Spanish knight Ignatius of Loyola pondered whether or not to kill a Moor who he thought had impugned the honour of Christ's mother. But we may suppose that God is capable of looking after himself as Milton put it, "God does not need man's work".

Jack Mahoney urges protection for the religious feelings of all

The bounds of blasphemy

In considering the protection of any particular religion, we are moving into the area not of God's honour but of truth. And here we have to contend above all with the possibility of being mistaken in our understanding of a perceived truth. As Oliver Cromwell pleaded with the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, "I beseech you, in the bowels of Christ, think it possible you may be mistaken."

The committed heart can find it hard to keep an open mind. It can regard such openness as betrayal, rather than as the recognition that our intellectual grasp cannot always keep up with our spiritual reach. Sir Thomas Browne put it strikingly when he asked, of the content of religious beliefs, "Who can speak of eternity without a solecism?"

This is the delicate meeting ground of religious belief and intellectual humility, where religious conviction easily becomes dogmatism. In some aspects of contemporary Islam

we may see evidence of that earlier stage of religious intransigence from which Christianity as a whole had such difficulty in freeing itself, and from which it has not entirely escaped yet. When there is scope for genuine disagreement over the truths of a religion, even among its adherents, it is scarcely appropriate that law be invoked to protect them, or one particular interpretation of them.

Finally, do people's religious feelings need protecting? More particularly, should our current law on blasphemy be repealed as an outmoded form of censorship, or should it be extended to protect the deepest beliefs of all religious adherents? I believe not only that it should be retained, but that it should be extended to protect the religious convictions of non-Christians.

It no longer seems appropriate to claim a privileged status in Britain for Christian believers. In a plural and democratic society, Christianity has to take

its chances with other religions and with none. More positively for Christians themselves, the ecumenical impulse which stimulates the quest for Christian unity extends to the inter-faith acknowledgement of the variety of ways in which men and women may strive to draw close to the one God.

There are, of course, practical difficulties in enforcing the current legislation on blasphemy, and these will increase if the law is extended. Most notably there may be controversy over whether some convictions count as religious. But all legislation has borderline cases, or grey areas requiring clarification and definition. As Aristotle observed, it is a wise law which does not attempt to cover all eventualities in advance. And the fact that we may not be sure how to describe the few moments of twilight does not mean we are incapable of distinguishing between day and night. Yet it should not be the role of

law to proscribe or to stifle religious debate and criticism. All faith is a search and a pilgrimage, and it is easy for us incorrigible seekers after security to regard what should be a staging post as the final haven of our journeying towards truth.

Furthermore, freedom of expression should be upheld in a humane society. The burden of proof must lie with those who wish to circumscribe such freedom in the public interest, an interest which is not to be identified simply with the preservation of public order, but which goes much deeper in society.

Freedom, however, carries its own responsibilities. And the responsible exercise of freedom ought freely to recognize, or failing that should be made to recognize, some civilized bounds. It is neither a responsible nor a defensible exercise of free expression in a civilized society to use it to direct scorn, or ridicule, or odium, not at God, nor even at religion, but at the deepest personal convictions of many of one's fellow citizens.

Father Jack Mahoney SJ is F.D. Maurice Professor of Moral and Social Theology at King's College, London. This article is taken from a sermon preached in Westminster Abbey on March 18.

Voiceless in the power stakes

Ronald Butt unravels the tangled strands of the European unity debate and suggests that British fears can best be overcome if we make a positive contribution

In Britain, the debate about the political future of the European Community is stylized, rigid and unreal. On the one side stand the "federalists", enthused with idealism and demanding the political integration of the present member states (plus East Germany) with a central supranational authority and corresponding new powers for the European Parliament. In their analysis and rhetoric, which airily dismiss all contrary opinion as narrow nationalism, they ignore the risks that could result from the frustration of national interests.

On the other side are the "nationalists", who preach the dangers of federalism and lost sovereignty of member states in terms which make little allowance for the practical reasons for the drive to greater political integration.

If rhetoric could be taken as a guide (which it cannot), the heads of government might be taken to divide on similar lines. President Mitterrand and Chancellor Kohl, like Jacques Delors, president of the European Commission, call bravely for federalized institutions, though in what form is unclear. Against them, standing virtually alone, Mrs Thatcher derides the concept of a politically tighter Community of the present size, offering instead the vision of a wider and looser Europe embracing the nations of Eastern Europe in an "alliance for democracy" closely involved with the United States. Whatever its significance for the distant future, her presentation has little relevance to the current realities. In Brussels, Bonn and Paris it is taken simply as a tactical device for hindering political union.

When the argument over political union is examined in Brussels, however, the picture does not appear to be so starkly black and white as it does in London. Moreover, the movement in Brussels favouring political integration has gone much faster and further than could have been anticipated a few months ago, and the strength of its momentum is hardly appreciated in Britain. Far from being a dream of Community enthusiasts, it is a realistic reflection of the mood in every capital within the Community except London. It also has the support of Commission civil servants, industrialists and economists of the member states.

There is essentially a hard-headed and pragmatic approach which should be distinguished from the position of the extreme federalists who assume that "pooling" sovereignty for monetary, macroeconomic, environmental, foreign and aspects of social policy poses no great prob-

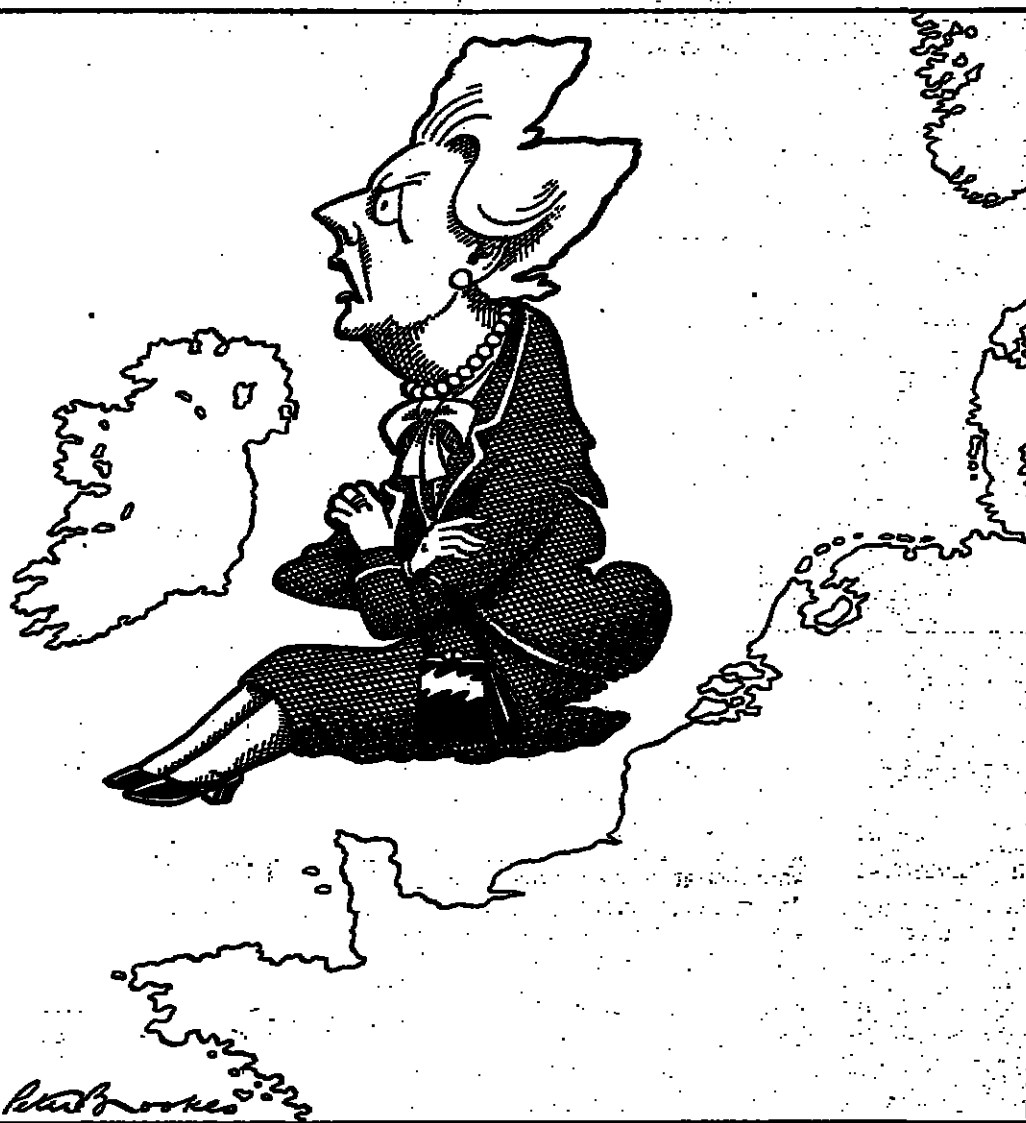
lems of national accountability. It is among the members of the European Parliament that the wind of federalism blows hardest. Almost to a man and woman (excluding the extremist fringes), they are hungry for more power and for the right to elect the president of the Commission. Thus the European Parliament has approved the report of the Martin Committee (its rapporteur, David Martin, is Labour MEP for the Lothians), which declared that it is "increasingly necessary rapidly to transform the Community into a European Union of a federal type and (to go) beyond the single market and monetary union", with legislation requiring the explicit approval of the European Parliament as "representing the electorate as a whole".

This (Mrs Thatcher notwithstanding) is the position of virtually every Tory MEP and it has been embraced with, if anything, even greater enthusiasm by the majority of Labour MEPs, who (apart from some left-wingers) see in federalism a new outlet for their internationalist instincts as well as a necessary control over Brussels. The potential danger from suppressed national interests is brushed aside; one Labour MEP even expressed the view that the differences between citizens of London, Paris and Berlin are no sharper than those between citizens of New York, Detroit and Dallas.

That attitude, however, is not shared by the hardheaded advocates of political integration who are in the places of power. Though they support some sort of federalism, they are largely open-minded about its form. The essence of their argument is that there has already been a loss of national democratic accountability to Brussels and that a further loss would inevitably follow from economic and monetary union (EMU), which it is clear will go ahead in some form with or without Britain. Contrary to the British view that federalism is a gift of power to Brussels, they regard it as a means of bringing the Brussels bureaucracy under control and as the best means of defining the area of permissible action by the central authority.

National rights would be protected by the doctrine of "subsidiarity", which says that matters should be determined at a higher (federalist) level only if they cannot be as well dealt with at national level. This principle obviously begs a lot of questions about the meaning of the word "can", but the French and German governments and M Delors are attached to it.

As I understand it, M Delors himself is flexible about ways and means. He believes that for the past 30 years the Community



has been engaged in creeping federalism and *de facto* political union without saying where it is going and that it has been piling up the "democratic deficit" on the way. On the principle of subsidiarity, he believes the Community should take responsibility for something only when this is demonstrably necessary.

Delors thinks that the time has come to recognize the problems created by the loss of effective control by national parliaments. He wants to return to the vision of the Community's founding fathers, who saw the Commission as an embryonic government, the Council of Ministers as an embryonic upper house (with a veto), and the European Parliament as a legislature with real powers in a prescribed area.

This, of course, is not how it has turned out. The Parliament, though it has some powers of surveillance, remains without decisive powers; the Council has evolved into the Community's political cabinet, and the Commission has remained a bureaucracy with ever-growing and inadequately controlled powers. Hence Delors's suggestion that the Parliament be strengthened

and given power to elect the president of the Commission.

The difficulty with that proposition is, of course, that it is likely to strengthen the president of the Commission more than the standing of an elected politician. This would greatly enhance his position vis-à-vis the heads of national governments.

But Delors is also apparently aware of the need to involve the national parliaments more closely. One possibility is the establishment of a second chamber, representing nations at Strasbourg (or Brussels), but Delors is also concerned to find ways to involve national parliaments in Community business directly. He would like to build into national legislatures something along the lines of the British parliamentary select committee system, for he acknowledges that through them the British are far better informed about what is happening in the Community than are other member nations.

Similarly, there is a candid recognition in the Delors camp that nationhood is so strong that talk of a United States of Europe on the American pattern is unrealistic. As it was expressed to me: "The European nations

are too old to be put in a melting pot like that." The historical strength of the French and British sense of nationhood in particular is recognized, as is the special importance of Parliament to the British, which is not matched in French political psychology.

Delors also apparently favours a system which would limit once and for all the legal competences of the Community as such. Two possible approaches to this end are envisaged. One is that the principle of subsidiarity should be declared in general terms, leaving interpretation to the European Court; but this hardly makes for a precise determination of powers.

The other is to list in detail the competences of the Community and those of the national governments. But this would leave a grey area of interpretation, so perhaps it is the more difficult approach. Finally, Delors seems to accept that, whatever the system, the Council of Ministers will have to retain some form of consensus or veto.

The French disposition is to think aloud and keep the options open. Other nations respond likewise. The Belgians have just produced proposals for building on the present system, including the idea of allowing the Parliament to vote on a candidate nominated by the Council for president of the Commission, which might or might not turn out to mean rubber-stamping.

The Germans are too concerned with the problems of East Germany to think about the details of political union, but they are uncompromisingly in favour of it. Much influenced by

the genuine devotion of their own federal system, they feel a strong need to proclaim their general support for political union, both to allay the fears of the French, Belgians and Italians that they might be distracted eastwards, and as a signal to Moscow that a united Germany will be firmly anchored in the Western system.

But whatever the thinking in the Foreign Office, the British voice on political institutions remains unheard. As one important and dispassionate Community official put it to me, in the discussion on ways and means, "the British contribution is zero". Britain has no kites to fly alongside those of Delors. Yet it now seems to be accepted on all sides (including, privately, the British) that EMU will go ahead without us if necessary.

Meanwhile the official British position can simply be described. It is that major challenges facing the Community this year are far more important than politics. The implications of German reunification for the Community, responding to events in Eastern Europe (what kind of association with the newly liberated countries is possible?), multilateral trade negotiations (especially affecting Japan and the US), relations with the European Free Trade Association; the completion of the single market; and preparations for the international conference on EMU this December are, it is said, quite enough to be going on with. Failure in any of these matters would demonstrate the irrelevance of the institutional debate.

Behind the British government's resistance to EMU is Mrs Thatcher's personal conviction that it would inevitably lead towards political integration, in which we should be bossed about by the Germans. She thinks that the tighter the Community becomes, the greater the German influence will be, which is precisely the opposite of the position taken by everyone else. That is why Sir Leon Brittan, vice-president of the Commission, strongly advocates EMU membership and believes the Delors camp is tactically mistaken to try to attach political integration to the EMU debate.

But the balance of opinion among the commissioners inclines towards Delors's view. Britain therefore faces an insistence that the inter-governmental conference on EMU in December should include discussion of political integration. Moreover, the European's loss of political union will probably be opened at the Dublin summit on German unity this month, and the debate will continue throughout the summer.

The question for Britain now is whether it really is in our interest to stay silent as the debate on desirability and feasibility intensifies. Joining the discussion on political integration need in principle involve no commitment. The danger of silence is, of course, that ideas will be formed and plans made without any input from us. That was the mistake made when we stayed out of the initial formation of the Community.

6 Behind the British government's resistance to EMU is Mrs Thatcher's personal conviction that it would lead inevitably towards political integration, in which we should be bossed about by the Germans

Nostalgia at the old jokes home



CRAIG BROWN

Jessamy remains particularly proud that most of the Algonquin group have emerged in biographical studies as alcoholic manic-depressives: "It gives their humour a sense of utter misery

it might otherwise be lacking." I left Jessamy giggling and sobbing between glasses, and moved to the saloon bar, where I found veteran jester Bovey Tracey, for more than 35 years the immortal "Tiltwile" on the *Daily Herald* ("In the great days of the Herald"). "These Americans," he said, casting a glance at Jessamy, who was by now making a light-hearted attempt at suicide, "they have no understanding of the subtle British sense of humour. For example, we love the sideways look at the working classes - who can forget my immortal Fred Footmouth, chief steward of the Amalgamated Union of Tea-drinkers,

Loafers and Sluggards? - or my long-running series on The Lighter Side of Lawnmowers (later anthologized under the title *Pardon My Lawnmower!* - An Irreverent Guide to Garden Machinery) or, indeed, my hilarious collection of Names That Make You Chuckle, including Mr. Penny, a bank manager from Cardiff, and Mrs. Cati, a dog-owner from Tiverton! Delightful spoofs all, but they'd be lost on your average American."

At the other end of the bar, I was delighted to find Ned Stowley, for 63 years editor of the *Funny Old World* column on the *News Chronicle* ("In the great days of the *Chron*"), whose spoof

on *Hamlet*, written in iambics in the style of Raymond Chandler, is a satire on the *Proffumo* affair, is a humorous classic. He left me with some valuable tips for the young humorists of today: "Always remember to include reference to either Oscar's humbuggery. The unspeakable in full pursuit of the unspeakable, or Groucho's 'I wouldn't want to belong to a club that would have me as a member'."

"Second, distribute the following words or phrases in each article you write: 'boffins', 'birds of the feathered variety', 'emunctory', 'the mas on the Clapham Omnibus' and 'peruse'. Third, call all your characters by funny names, such as Devonshire towns. And finally, do please remember that all English humorists, columns must and with a veritable string of exclamation marks!"

THE forthcoming publication of Frank Muir's *Oxford Book of Humorous Prose* is to be marked by a special celebration at the Old Humorists Retirement Home in Tunbridge Wells.

"We're all delighted to be represented in the book, or 'chucklebone tome' as we prefer to term it," veteran humorist Budleigh Salterton told me when I visited the home last week. Budleigh was a columnist on *Punch* "in its great days". He became widely known for his reveries concerning the antics of his children, before developing a sideline in puns. "Puns?" he now exclaims, "couldn't resist 'em, pun my soul! Funny thing appunined to me the other day - I was eating a current pun and I forgot the date..."

I left Budleigh chuckling to himself and drifted over to Dean Prior, who cut a comic niche in

the Fifties ("the great days of *Reader's Digest*") with his waspish tirades against the excesses of modern life. He is now best remembered for his satirical jibes against long hair on men and trousers on women ("Pardon me," I said to the human being - I use the term in the broadest possible sense! - "but are you a bird or a bloke?").

The Retirement Home has its fair share of American humorists, including Jessamy Wisacre, one of the most overlooked members of the Algonquin Round Table ("and those were the great days of the Algonquin"). Armed with a bottle of Scotch, a cigar, and a wet tissue, she likes to reminisce

about the aphorisms that bounced back and forth between Benchley, Parker, Woolcott and herself. "So Dot says, 'Life is like an ashtray' and we all laugh, so Rob Benchley, who's now on his fifth bourbon, says, 'Yeah - and you know what ashtrays are like - they're like life' and by now we're laughing fit to burst, so Woolcott chips in with, 'Hey - if life is an ashtray, why can't we empty it down the drain?' We're all on the floor, when everyone turns to me, and you know what I say? I say, quick as a flash, 'Anything trashcan do, I can do better!' And they all get out their notebooks and jot it down. A classic. It's in all the anthologies."

It gives their humour a sense of utter misery



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TRADING IN LIVES

The principle that no concessions should be granted to hostage-takers is affirmed by many governments and practised by few. Yesterday's unedifying spectacle of French ministers grovelling before Colonel Gaddafi, whose clients had just released three French captives, drives home once again the extent of international hypocrisy on this question.

The relief from suffering of these hostages and their families is, of course, welcome. The wider world is the loser. The usefulness to terrorists of kidnapped nationals from countries with technology, money and prestige to barter is crudely obvious. Colonel Gaddafi is lauded by the Quai d'Orsay for his "noble and humanitarian" gesture and gets to play generous and disinterested mediator for a day. Yet if the Libyan Government did not sponsor the Fatah Revolutionary Council of Abu Nidal in the first place, the hostages might not have been taken or held for as long as two and half years. As for Abu Nidal's men, who have more deaths to their name than most of their counterparts, they too enjoy a brief moment of favourable publicity as they give a toddler her freedom.

Worse still, the French Government last month agreed the delivery, delayed four years by a European Community embargo, of three Mirage fighters to Tripoli. In 1986, EC foreign and interior ministers celebrated an almost united front in opposition to deals with terrorists. Twice since then French governments have ransomed hostages from the Middle East while scarcely bothering to deny that deals have been done to secure those homecomings. When the British Government is accused of lacking in European solidarity, as is clearly predictable this summer, Mrs Thatcher will be entitled to shout Tripoli at any Frenchman who dares criticize her.

The fact that kidnapping is wrong, and carried out in these instances by ruthless men, does not mean that the perpetrators are irrational or mad. Hostages are both taken and kept as a calculated diplomatic investment. Militant factions and their sponsor govern-

ments use these prisoners to achieve ends which they cannot achieve in any other way. Groups in the Iranian Government have used the Western hostages held in the Lebanon as leverage to gain arms, financial relief and diplomatic gains which are otherwise denied it.

Confronting and containing the threat of further hostage-taking is a problem of separating tactics and strategy. The tactical approach adopted by Paris is to watch and wait for the moment at which the most cost-effective bargain can be struck. The strategy necessary for the long-term safety of Westerners in the Lebanon and elsewhere is to reduce the bargaining value of hostages to the lowest point possible. That can only be done by a collective refusal to barter for release.

A common front by governments at risk is therefore essential. Politicians must be prepared, as few are — to explain to families moved by personal grief the hard choice involved. That choice may even include contemplating the use of force, with attendant risks for hostage safety. Judging the motives and calculations of hostage-takers is always speculative. Many groups are involved, and they will calculate differently.

But calculate they will. And on the basis of the French precedents, who can tell them that hostage-taking is a waste of effort? The holders of the remaining Lebanon hostages must now be witnessing with glee the additional pressure from hostage families that the Paris concession places on such governments as those of Britain and America, who refuse to negotiate.

Statesmanship that might diminish the value of kidnapping calls for patience, diplomacy and moral courage. It also requires countries with common interests to place the common good above national advantage. The wreckage of European declarations against terrorism suggests that EC political co-operation remains a pious aspiration. Easy enough for 12 countries to agree to spend their taxpayers' money on Eastern Europe; harder to stand together when the choice is more painful.

UNWILLINGLY TO SCHOOL

The teaching profession, like some of its pupils, has a hit parade of favourite tunes. Currently top is "Paper Mountain," a lament for honourable and dedicated teachers now drowning under the administrative overload flowing from the wicked Education Reform Act. The president of the Assistant Masters and Mistresses Association, Mrs Inez Preston, sang it to her members yesterday. Teachers were being "smothered" by a "monstrous bureaucracy."

The complaint is that — as the Government intended and the public wants — much of the administration of primary and secondary schools is being transferred to the heads of those schools from town hall bureaucracies. It is an example of the principle of subsidiarity which underlies the present Government's general approach to public administration. This will involve some teachers in the paperwork unavoidable with self-government and with a higher degree of self-monitoring in the classroom. A far-sighted profession might willingly set about the task with cries of relief, if not of joy.

From the abuse heaped on this change by many teachers, it would be hard to see this as one of the more constructive reforms of the British school system since the 1944 Act. It is even harder to recognize, from such complaints as yesterday's, that the intention is to liberate schools from the strait-jacket of local bureaucratic control. The public could be forgiven for seeing teachers as reluctant to accept professional responsibility for the conduct of their institutions, free of outside interference. As if afraid of freedom, they cling instead to the skirts of corporate statism.

The Government has had to lay down fairly precise regulations for the implementation of the Local Management of Schools initiative, partly because it has been unable to trust the teaching profession. A hardcore of teachers have persisted in trying to obstruct the Education Reform Act, some of whose reforms cut across their entrenched prejudices, for

instance by giving an active role to parents in shaping their children's education. State school teachers, for long snooty about their private-sector colleagues, must now learn some of the responsiveness to parents that has been the key to survival outside the public sector.

The Government has been forced to acknowledge that many senior teachers are untrained and unprepared for their new administrative roles. If that leaves schools with "no more room for manoeuvre than a helpless wriggle," to quote Mrs Preston, then a reluctant profession must prove that it can transcend such intervention and justify greater institutional freedom. There is more than a suspicion that some teachers will happily render their schools ungovernable and blame it all on the minister.

The secretary of state, Mr John MacGregor, has already moved to meet some of the teachers' complaints by reducing the burden of paperwork which might have arisen from an excess of testing and appraisal. Reducing the required feedback from schools on the operation of the National Curriculum was said last year to have saved 150,000 pieces of paper. Only this week the testing arrangements for seven-year-olds were removed, to reduce further the burden on teachers.

All bureaucracies tend to ever greater bureaucracy. Many in education administration are wary of seeing their jobs and comfortable seclusion from the school front line being threatened by the new decentralization. They may join with recalcitrant teachers in encumbering schools with additional restrictions and in starving them of the money needed to help self-government on its way. Some councils will hamper head teachers by saddling them with inexperienced and politically motivated governors. On all sides, obstacles to progress will occur. But this is a sensible reform. The teaching profession should give it a fair wind, not mimic the doctors and academics in crying that all Government-inspired change is for the worst.

BIG DEAL

President Gorbachev's chief economic adviser declared on Monday that the Soviet Union could no longer afford the leisurely progress towards free-market capitalism announced last autumn. State monopolies are to be privatized, the tax system is to be reformed, a stock exchange and commercial banks are to be called into being. "We can no longer continue balancing between two stools," said Mr Leonid Abalkin. On the same day, Mr Donald Kendall, the chairman of PepsiCo Inc. told a Moscow press conference that he had just signed a \$3 billion deal to barter Pepsi-Cola for ships and vodka.

Desperate for the hard currency they need to update their economy, the Soviet search for innovation has led them back to one of the world economy's most primitive concepts, countertrade or barter. Once known as silent trade, it is mentioned in Herodotus: one party would go to the customary trading spot, deposit his goods and retire into the bush. The other party would then advance and lay down what he thought were articles of equal value. The deal was concluded when one side removed the wares offered by the other. Communication was limited to a call or gong stroke.

This technique has been refined over the years, but the principle has not changed. Although the Pepsi delegation eventually settled for Stolichnaya and oil tankers, the Russians offered to throw in one or two clapped-out submarines from the Baltic fleet. At the British trade fair in Moscow last spring, a young Tartar from Kazan turned up with an offer of mink oil, asking for payment in Western cassettes. Another proposal involved the shipment of 250,000 Russian mouse-skins, while Rank Xerox were offered some racing

camels in exchange for photocopyers. Hjalmar Schacht persuaded Hitler that barter trade was a good thing for the Third Reich. Comecon has been awash with it ever since.

Now, an awareness of how essentially constipated such transactions are is spreading rapidly through Eastern Europe. Hungary and the Soviet Union signed a protocol last month in which they agreed that from 1991 they would conduct their trade only in hard currency.

Countertrade enjoyed something of a vogue in the early 1980s, mainly because heavily indebted Third World countries simply ran out of currency in which to conduct their trade. Barter's more sophisticated half-sister, offset, is still favoured by governments who wish to prise some advantage from, for instance, large defence and aerospace companies. But such arrangements often go sour: witness the British Government's AWACS deal with Boeing which was built round a complicated argument over the number of jobs the deal would generate in Britain. But then the politics of countertrade are even more opaque than the economics.

Barter will go on making sense for President Gorbachev until he achieves that apothecary of *perestroika*, the full convertibility of the rouble. That must be far in the future. For the time being, a convertible rouble would have indirect access to all Western currencies, putting it under chronic devaluatory pressure. As long as nobody but a Red Square blackmarketeer has the remotest notion of what the rouble is really worth, racing camels, their coats sleek with mink oil, look like being comparatively legal tender for discerning countertraders of West and East alike.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Facing challenge of prison riots

From the Director of the Prison Reform Trust
Sir, Your leader, "After Strange Ways" (April 6), is very welcome for the challenge it makes to the prison authorities to do more to protect those convicted or charged with sexual crimes. Present Prison Department policy appears — no doubt inadvertently — almost to condone the claim to moral superiority of prisoners on normal location over those segregated on Rule 43.

You put forward three solutions to the plight of the sex offender. The first — for the courts to take a more robust view of prisoners' rights — is one with which I very much concur. Although British law does recognize that a duty of reasonable care is owed by the prison administration to those in its custody, in practice problems of staff resources and administrative convenience have been given greater weight than the right of the individual prisoner not to be attacked. A shift in judicial sentiment on this point is overdue.

Your second solution is what you term "the tried and tested policy of privatization". In fact, privatization of the prisons is very far from tried and tested, and its relevance to the treatment of sex offenders is immediately obvious. In the light of Staines and last year's riot at Risley Remand Centre, it has surely become clear how much each prison is dependent upon the system as a whole for mutual aid when a breakdown in control occurs.

Your principal proposal is for the establishment of separate prisons for sex offenders, prisons which would offer and run therapeutic regimes. This is actually not so very far removed from one strand in Prison Department policy, namely the establishment of a range of vulnerable prisoner units (VPU) where the prisoners are on Rule 43. These units do appear to be operating reasonably well and there is no question that they afford a much better environment for prisoners liable elsewhere to attack.

Properly staffed and resourced VPUs are a more humane approach to the treatment of sexual offenders. However, VPUs like Rule 43 itself do take us further away from the goal of integration — which — as experience at a number of prisons in both England and Scotland demonstrates — can be achieved given sufficient management effort.

Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN SHAW, Director,
Prison Reform Trust,
59 Caledonian Road, NI,
April 6.

Crisis in Ethiopia

From Miss Julia Mellows
Sir, Your articles yesterday (April 2) yet again highlight the political turmoil in Ethiopia, the root cause of famine and continuing civil war, exacerbated by the interference of foreign powers using their strategic importance for their own gain. While it is evident that the Soviet Union would dearly like to relinquish responsibility for her ally and is actually encouraging the US to join them in pushing President Mengistu towards a peaceful solution with his adversaries, it is taking him time and costing lives and money to realise that a military solution is not the answer.

Negotiations with the Tigre People's Liberation Front and Eritrean People's Liberation Front have merely been a wrangling for position over matters of procedure and the recent renouement of Marxism and moves for reform have been received with scepticism. Ethiopians still remember the Red Terror of the late 70s and

From Mr Eric Morrell
Sir, The prison overcrowding crisis arises from this country's practices of remanding in custody about 10,000 unconvicted men and women, many of whom are not guilty or receive a non-custodial penalty, and of imprisoning even higher numbers of people convicted of quite minor offences. It also owes something to the highly variable sentencing patterns in different parts of the country.

Ostensibly the Home Office accepts all this. But it is currently spending less than 4 per cent of criminal justice expenditure on the probation service (compared with 17 per cent on prisons). And at the end of its current "drive" to change the balance of sentencing it envisages spending a further 0.3 per cent of criminal justice expenditure on the probation service.

Do not the events in Manchester, Bristol and elsewhere blow the whistle on such ambivalence? Yours sincerely,
ERIC MORRELL,
(Chief Probation Officer),
West Midlands Probation Service,
1 Victoria Square,
Birmingham 1,
April 9.

From Dr Michael Orr
Sir, There is a large group of people who are accommodated in under-staffed Victorian institutions in conditions which do little, if anything, for human dignity. These people do not riot and any episodes of violence or disturbed behaviour are treated in ways which seek to be therapeutic rather than punitive.

Mentally-ill people receiving care and treatment in mental hospitals may well be puzzled at the wave of public concern and media attention being focused on conditions in our health care system continue to be ignored.

The recent fall in land-sale prices has seriously affected capital development plans in many regional health authorities. Most of the plans that have had to be shelved involve improvements in facilities for mentally-ill people. Surely, it is not the wish of Government or media that the only way that the sick and disabled can call society's attention to enduring apathy and injustice is through riot or headline-grabbing scandal.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL ORR,
(Unit General Manager),
Psychiatric Sector,
Oxfordshire Health Authority,
Littlemore Hospital,
Littlemore, Oxford,
April 6.

the last 15 years of misery have left deep feelings of mistrust.

If a long-term peaceful solution is to come about, all sides must give ground. It is highly unlikely that dismemberment of Ethiopia is on the cards, either internally or internationally, but surely the solution must be for a form of devolved power tailored to fit in with each group's demands. Perhaps a return to the 1952 UN resolution granting Eritrea a true federal status with the minimum of central government interference would be acceptable to them.

The people who dig deep into their pockets each time Ethiopia cries "famine" will also become sceptical if those involved on all sides do not take meaningful steps towards solving the crisis; one that is causing the destruction of their nation.

Yours faithfully,
JULIA MELLOWS,
British Horn of Africa Council,
PO Box 1261,
London, SW3 4JF.

Guns of Agincourt

From Mr M. C. Tynan
Sir, I would seek a dispute with such a distinguished historical writer as Tom Pocock ("Fields of French Chivalry", Travel, March 31) only with diffidence, but his reference to "the casques which did affright the air" being "worn" by armoured knights came as a surprise. Although Chambers' dictionary gives casques only the meaning of helmets, I think Shakespeare had something else in mind.

In the early gunpowder age, cannon were made as "barrels" by binding iron staves with iron hoops. If another distinguished historian, John Kegan, may be relied upon, "the air" is about all that was affrighted by the guns of Agincourt.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL TYNAN,
Epsworth House,
25 City Road, EC1,
April 2.

Cancer patients' care

From Dr Theodor D. Bates
Sir, Whilst wholeheartedly supporting efforts to improve standards of care for cancer patients, it is difficult to view the current publicity surrounding the Hammer-smith Hospital cancer appeal (report, March 24) with anything other than concern. Unfortunately, many cancer patients have been distressed by the suggestion that thousands of patients die unnecessarily each year because cancer services are badly organised.

It is true that rare tumours and tumours in children should be treated in the few cancer centres with special expertise and it is true that there is a need for further rationalisation of cancer services in London on the ground that

Trireme proposal

From Mr John Morrison
Sir, I must challenge Mr Hitchens' claim (April 7) that the trireme is an "inappropriate and unsympathetic" theme for Drake's Island. Sir Francis Drake played no small part in saving Elizabethan England from a Spanish invasion.

At the battle of Salamis, Greek oarsmen, rowing skillfully in triremes, saved Greece from Persian autocracy; and, what matters to us, enabled her nascent democracies to survive and be an inspiration for our own. Drake had much in common with those Greek oarsmen, whose skill will be re-enacted off Drake's Island as some repayment of our debt to both Ancient Greece in this, as in so many other ways, is part of the English heritage.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN MORRISON,
(Chairman, Trireme Trust),
Granham, Great Shelford,
Cambridge.

larger centres make a better base for cancer research, teaching and medical audit.

But large is not necessarily always best for the majority of patients with common cancers, especially outside the big cities where accessibility becomes important. The Department of Health and the Royal College of Radiologists agree that patients should rarely have to travel more than 25 miles for treatment and that smaller centres serving a minimum population of 650,000 are desirable in parts of the country.

A recent official college survey Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (01)782 5046.

Facts of history in their context

From the Chairman of the National Curriculum History Working Group
Sir, Professor Skidelsky's penetrating and informed article (April 4) on the National Curriculum History Working Group's report makes a number of important points; but it would appear that he may not have fully appreciated the group's position on the assessment of historical knowledge.

Thou has been careful to draw the distinction between historical knowledge as information, the facts of history, and the understanding of those facts in context. With Professor Skidelsky we agree that both run in parallel and cannot be taught or assessed in isolation.

The difference between us is that while the group has laid emphasis on assessing the pupil's understanding of the body of historical information set out in the programmes of study in a manner which involves its accurate recall, he would prefer to see the emphasis of assessment on the information in a way which demonstrates understanding.

Both approaches achieve the same end but the latter raises major problems, which Professor Skidelsky recognises, with the assessment system to which the National Curriculum must conform. One of these would be to reduce even further the opportunities for choice of content which he clearly desires.

Throughout the report the group lays stress on the importance of a thorough knowledge of the past. Each statement of attainment at every level is prefaced with the words "Drawing on the historical information in the programmes of study pupils should be able to..." I believe we have found the solution to a difficult problem which respects the relationship between knowledge in terms of information and of understanding, and which is relatively simple to implement.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL SAUNDERS,
WATSON,
Chairman, National Curriculum History Working Group,
Rockingham Castle,
Market Harborough, Leicestershire,
April 7.

From the President of the History of Education Society
Sir, The report of the history working group does insist upon the learning of facts. Each study unit has four sections which

prescribe "essential information". Thus your correspondent, Dr Erskine-Hill (April 9), can be assured that the compulsory Unit 15, "The making of the United Kingdom: c.1500 to c.1750", includes not only "The Glorious Revolution, 1688" under essential political information, but even "literature" under cultural and aesthetic information.

Confusion has arisen, particularly amongst those who have not yet read the report, over the issue of assessment. The working group has wisely set its face against the multiple-choice or one-word-answer approach to testing historical knowledge, and insisted instead that "the essential objective must be the acquisition of knowledge as understanding".

Nevertheless, the report states unequivocally: "We are however concerned to ensure that historical information will be taught, learned and properly assessed. We have, therefore, specified in each programme of study the essential knowledge which must be taught, and without which the objectives set by the attainment targets cannot be achieved."

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD ALDRICH,
President,
History of Education Society,
University of London,
History Department,
Institute of Education,
20 Bedford Way, WC1,
April 9.

From Mr Ray Dicks
Sir, The discussions about the way history should be taught in our schools has turned me back to that fine and distinguished historian, G. M. Trevelyan, who wrote: "I cannot hold the epicurean doctrine, sometimes favoured nowadays, that because history is essentially a study of generalisation it is safe for the student to neglect dates, which are the bones of historical anatomy. Still less is it safe, in pursuit of generalised truth, to overlook the personality and influence of great men, who are often in large measure the cause of some 'tendency' which only they rendered 'inevitable'." (British History in the 19th Century, 1922).

Trevelyan's approach has a lasting appeal which should not be overlooked by those seeking a way of teaching history that is both meaningful and absorbing.

Yours faithfully,
RAY DICKS,
19 Florida Court,
Westmoreland Road,
Bromley, Kent,
April 5.

Rich and poor

From Dr David G. Green
Sir, In "Hardly poor by choice" (article, April 2) Raymond Plant claims that "both rich and poor bear only limited personal responsibility for their respective positions". He concludes that "it is surely unfair that we should reward success so prodigiously and penalise failure so greatly". The implication of which is that the Government can legitimately take people's money from them and redistribute it according to political preferences.

Plant cites Hayek in support of his case, specifically Hayek's argument that the overall distribution of income and wealth is the unintended consequence of millions of individual choices and that it cannot therefore be considered either just or unjust. This is a misinterpretation of what Hayek is saying.

He is not saying that there are no grounds for believing that people are entitled to keep what they have earned. Rewards depend on the value of goods and services to the people who choose to buy them, not on the personal merits or needs of suppliers. For this reason Hayek regrets that market rewards have sometimes been justified exclusively as the deserved outcome of hard work or skill. It is permissible to be proud of hard work and skill, but success in a competitive market involves winning the voluntary support of fellow citizens, an altogether more humble basis for pride.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID GREEN (Director),
Health and Welfare Unit,
The Institute of Economic Affairs,
2 Lord North Street,
Westminster, SW1,
April 5.

Right to disobey

From Mr Geoffrey Marshall
Sir, Sir Alfred Sherman's objection (April 5) to Alan Ryan's account of the right to civil disobedience misconceives the general principle. He surmises that since all men are created equal, and if he (Sherman) may choose which laws to break, so may anyone else including thieves and rapists.

But even if Mr Ryan, Sir Alfred and the rapists were created equal (which I doubt) it does not follow that they are equally entitled to choose which laws to disobey. What they are equally entitled to do is to choose to disobey laws that they correctly judge to deserve disobedience as violating, let us say, basic rights of citizenship.

If all, or any, of the laws that forbid rape, protect property, or impose a poll tax fall under that description they will be morally entitled to disobey them, and if not, not.

That proposition is not a threat to our organised way of life, even if enunciated in Princeton.

Yours faithfully,
GEOFFREY MARSHALL,
The Queen's College,
Oxford,
April 6.

Mersey estuary

From Mr G. Y. McInnes
Sir, With reference to the article entitled "Should Britain grow an extra island?" by George Hill (March 30) I would seriously question the statement that "Poole is environmentally more sensitive than the Mersey".

There are eight reserves on the Mersey estuary, all of them important in their own right. The Mersey estuary is of vital importance to the over-wintering population and migration of waders, ducks and gulls (over 150,000 individuals). The Little Gull (*Larus minutus*) is more numerous in the Mersey estuary than anywhere else in Britain.

Although a major oil spill would be an environmental disaster anywhere around the coast of Britain, the consequences for the Mersey estuary would have at least as great an environmental impact as that of Poole harbour.

Yours faithfully,
G. Y. MCINNES,
5 Albert Grove,
Crosby, Liverpool.

First-class post

From Mrs A. L. Hennessey
Sir, Re the successful delivery of vaguely addressed letters: perhaps if I had addressed my father's card to the 86-year-old, 2nd bed from the left, first floor ward, a north London hospital, it would have arrived on his birthday.

The one I sent with a first-class stamp, correctly addressed with post code, took eight days.

Yours faithfully,
A. L. HENNESSEY,
Springfield, Long Green,
Worham, nr Diss,
Norfolk.

From Mr J. E. B. Law
Sir, With the Post Office apparently delivering such badly addressed correspondence on time, is it any wonder that the rest of us have to wait for our "first-class" post?

Yours faithfully,
JONATHAN LAW,
34 Norbiton Avenue,
Kingston upon Thames, Surrey.

Barry Millington on the growing awareness that Baroque opera productions can be visually as well as musically true to their origins

Authentic at both levels

Conservative critics of the new wave of interpretative opera productions have not been slow to point to an apparent contradiction in performances of Baroque opera today. While most serious companies are paying at least some attention to the precepts of historical performance practice as regards the musical style and the instruments used, their stagings, in accordance with the recent trends, have often allowed producers a high degree of interpretative licence. In short, what you hear is aimed at authenticity; what you see is not.

In fact, the two spheres are very different. Although it makes sense to illuminate unfamiliar procedures and practices in Baroque scores, the theatre in which they are performed belongs to today, and has to be able to respond to modern sensibilities. Even so, there have been attempts — notably at Drottningholm in Sweden (where a Baroque theatre and sets have survived), at the early music festival in Boston, Massachusetts and in London (the Norrington staging of *Orygyn* at the Proms, for instance) — to recreate 18th-century style in matters of costume, choreography and gesture. And more and more information is coming to light about the way operas were staged in the Baroque era.

The periodical *Early Music* has recently devoted two issues to the subject. An essay by Nicholas Solomon, for example, describes how, in the 18th century, gesture and movement were used to signify character and motivation. "Good" characters entered from the right, "bad" characters from the left. The precise method of entering the stage was also pre-

scribed: face and torso towards the audience, with hand raised if upstage, lowered if downstage.

The immensely detailed prescriptions outlined in these essays sometimes formulate what an actor of any period would do naturally. Thus, most of the acting is to be done in recitatives (rather than arias) and centre stage: strong emotions are signified by the use of both hands. Other prescriptions seem to erect a formidable barricade against any freedom of expression on the actor/singer's part. There is some irony in the fact that these articles appear alongside an advertisement for David Freeman's production of Monteverdi's opera *The Return of Ulysses* at English National Opera. Freeman has never been a man to whom "fidelity to the composer" means a literal observance of the stage or any other directions. On the contrary, his many Monteverdi, Handel and Mozart productions for ENO and his own Opera Factory company have been classic demonstrations of present-day trends towards "producer's opera" at its most stimulating.

This week a different company, Opera Restor'd, which specializes in "authentic" productions of 17th-century English opera, has been leading a course entitled "The Baroque Opera Project" for the Benslow Music Trust. Since 1979 the Trust has been running a residential music course centred on a large Victorian house in Hitchin called Little Benslow Hills. The courses, which attract both enthusiastic amateurs and aspiring professionals, cover a wide range of subjects from string quartet playing to choral singing.

The dramatic side of the Baroque Opera Project is supervised by Jack Edwards, whose aim is to



Excellent but unhistorical: Ethna Robinson and John Mark Ainsley in David Freeman's production of Monteverdi's *The Return of Ulysses*

secure a theatrically convincing performance rather than one that merely observes all the rules. An actor himself, he demonstrates with a natural Baroque grace how Cupid should strew flowers ("from the elbow, not too high up") or how a courtier should kneel (writhing slightly before stooping, to ensure a steady motion).

He is rehearsing Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas* for a public perfor-

mance that will provide the climax of the course. The musical director is a noted Baroque specialist, Peter Holman, who believes equally strongly that they are not in the business of making rules. The same applies to performances by Opera Restor'd. In any case, being a travelling company, it lacks the resources to mount productions on a lavish Baroque scale. Like Edwards, Holman digests the scholarly information

but prefers to apply the principles and lessons learned as appropriate in the context of their own performances.

This would seem to be the most fruitful resolution of the issue for our own time. Research into the obscure corners of Baroque operatic practice should be encouraged in as much as it enhances our understanding of the works under discussion. But to attempt to observe the theatrical

conventions of a bygone age down to the minutest detail can only produce a sterile and ultimately anachronistic representation that fails to recreate those works in ways to which a modern audience can respond.

Details of Benslow Music Trust courses can be obtained from the Director, Little Benslow Hills, Hitchin, Herts SG4 9RB. The performance of *Dido and Aeneas* is tonight at 8 pm; tickets £5

Outfacing the cringe factor

TELEVISION

Sheridan Morley

EVER since the invention of *Through the Keyhole*, a quiz programme in which appalling people are impertinent about the interior design of the homes of still more appalling people, the world has been waiting, though not urgently, for *Style Trial* (BBC 1). In the first of the new series, a panel of ageing disc jockeys and alternative comedians tried to assess the lifestyles of contestants from short films and then conduct interviews of mind-numbing banality.

The panelists, most of whom looked as though they have spent several years hosting late-night phone-ins at minor commercial radio stations in East Anglia, must have been getting paid well over the odds for allowing themselves to be caught doing this, even at 7 pm on BBC 1.

The mystery is why their guests would willingly appear on this sort of show. The cringe factor involved in *Style Trial* is so high that it would surely have been less painful to commit to a month on Cilla Black's *Blind Date*.

Getting a titter out of television is about as easy as finding a legal parking space in Marylebone, but I can recommend Channel 4's new *Just For Laughs* series, not so much for its main content as for its links.

The official stars here are stand-up comedians, of remarkable unfunnyness, from last year's Montreal Comedy Festival; which, by the look of it, is something much akin to the Slough Festival of Elegant Beachwear.

In between their acts, however, Rowan Atkinson turns up in one of the greatest comic creations since the gay transvestite lumberjack of Monty Python: he is now "Casey Rogers", in a set of brilliantly waspish parodies of what I take to be Canadian Tourist Board commercials.

Rogers is some kind of backwoods guide, at his best when explaining why the first words every Canadian hears are "Honey, that's a tree" or how it is that Montreal's National Gallery consists of only two portraits, of Pierre Trudeau and Mahatma Gandhi: "Every picture in this gallery is of people who made Canada great, or had heard of it."

Best of all were the closing credits, in which Rogers sang "Simple Me to a Maple Tree", before departing with some relief to a new life in Australia.

With the real and present danger of closet doors now being slammed shut more noisily than at any time since the middle 1950s, *Out on Tuesday* (Channel 4) devoted itself last night to an enthralling study of elderly lesbians, who grew up with the secrecy of the classic lesbian novel *The Well of Loneliness* and only gradually grew into any kind of public tolerance.

The hypocrisy of the women's armed forces, where lesbianism was privately acknowledged but publicly punished by a dishonourable discharge, was mirrored by society at large. It was only in the courage and essential tolerance of these elderly ladies that one began to see the contrast between the narrow-minded bigotry of 1950s society and the innate good humour of its victims.

Music looks best when they play it straight

Paul Griffiths was in Paris for the inaugural festival of films on composers and musicians

It is not so easy to see why music and television should be one of the most unlikely, doomed, perilous marriages of artistic genre. Maybe the problem is not so much that music is fundamentally non-visual, but rather that its visual rhythms and textures are on the contrary so many, so that an adequate film of an orchestra at work would have to deal almost simultaneously with the speeds of violinists' fingers, the conductor's baton and the musical phrasing, the solo instrumentalist and the whole ensemble. Without that counterpoint, filmed concerts become boring within about 10 seconds.

On the other hand, attempts to leave the concert hall behind and provide new images instantly run into the difficulty that the music becomes incidental, a mere accompaniment to a film-maker's fantasies. Rather in the same way, the orchestral score of a televised opera easily retreats into the background, even when it is a score as rich as that of Bartók's *Bluebeard's Castle*, of which Leslie Megaw recently made a studio production for the BBC. Performed music becomes tedious; invisible music becomes secondary.

These lessons are being rather too often repeated at the first "Classiques en Image" festival, currently being held in the audi-

torium that sits under the pyramid of the Louvre. Rather too significantly, the auditorium is a fine small cinema with poor sound reproduction. Choosing from films and programmes made during the last two years, and eschewing simple televised concerts, the festival has come up with a variety of treatments, but the successes are few, and almost always come from the documentary area.

No doubt that is because here music is no longer the real subject matter. Watching and hearing Elliott Carter at work (in the Dutch film *Time is Music*) has the same fascination as watching and hearing any artistic, reflective professional: this could as well have been a master baker talking. Similarly, the hopes and passions washing out from the screen in Peter Rosen's film of last year's Van Cliburn Piano Competition could have been captured from any group of athletes or beauty queens.

But there is something special about Chantal Akerman's film with Alfred Brendel about Schubert's last three piano sonatas, which, with the *Bluebeard's Castle*

production, was singled out for special mention by the selecting jury. Akerman uses the simplest means. Everything takes place within the pianist's studio, and we see him from only three fixed angles. And almost nothing happens. He plays the slow movement of the C-sharp minor sonata. He talks and answers some questions about motivic connections among the sonatas, about the musical exploration of death, about Schubert's imagery. And then he plays the slow movement of the C-sharp minor sonata again.

Such is the intensity and almost unbearable awkwardness with which Brendel speaks, and such is the similar intensity in his face as he plays, keeping up an extraordinary ballet of twitches in his cheek and jaw muscles, that the film demands attention. Its three-part form plainly reveals to us how much we have learned, how much closer we have come to the unreachable ideal of the music itself. This is television accepting its essential difference.

What can happen when television, by contrast, goes rampant was shown in a couple of films by the Swiss director Adrian Mar-

thaler (on Gershwin's Concerto in F as the biography of a boxer and on Prokofiev's Classical Symphony as historical pastiche) and in a woe-filled excerpt from Zbigniew Rybczynski's hour-long extravaganza *L'Orchestre*, this wheezing through some kind of geriatric party in a video-realized maze while the slow movement from Mozart's C major piano concerto K 467 was being played.

This sort of exuberance and display worked much better in the realizing of the 1989 Florentine Intermedi by Thames Television, where digital techniques make it possible for Baroque-costumed, gold-painted immortals to descend and circle on a sky of purple and magenta clouds with all the splendour and unashamed vulgarity they would have gained in the 16th century from stage machinery.

There is also a nice use of computer video possibilities as naïve entertainment in Anna-Celia Kendall's version for La Sept of Maurice Ohana's short operatic fable *Ogre mangeant des jeunes filles sous la lune*. What can happen when television grows up in this area, though, will have to wait for future repetitions of the Louvre's biennial festival.

On tomorrow's arts page: Tony Palmer's new Hindemith film, previewed by Richard Morrison.



Naïve entertainment: Maurice Ohana's operatic fable, *Ogre mangeant des jeunes filles sous la lune*

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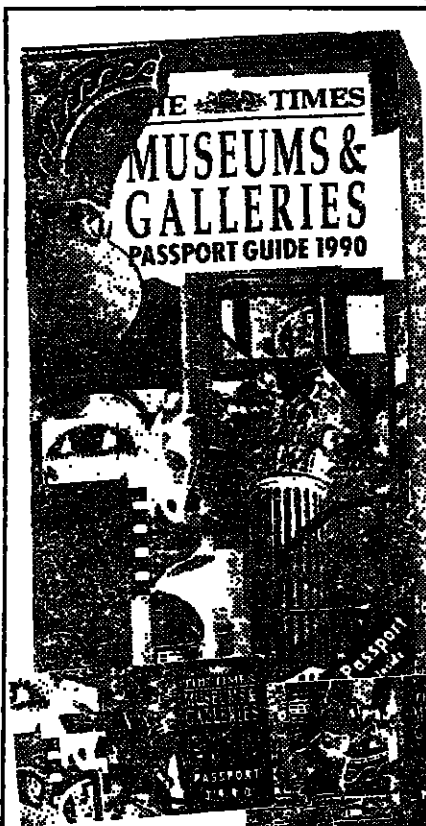
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Sound and fury of the real Rachmaninov

CONCERTS

Richard Morrison

Leningrad SO/Dmitriev
Barbican Hall

they play best — Rachmaninov, Tchaikovsky, Dvořák, particularly — is also the repertoire which will reliably fill British concert halls.

The Leningrad Symphony Orchestra is not as polished an ensemble as the magnificent Leningrad Philharmonic. But it played Shostakovich's Fifth Symphony with great spirit under Alexander Dmitriev, a conductor who has served the Soviet musical system competently for years without gaining any international reputation.

In a curious way, too, this orchestra is more characterful

than its distinguished sister. Whereas the Leningrad Philharmonic has noticeably Westernized its sound under the leadership of Yuri Temirkanov and Mariss Jansons, the Symphony Orchestra retains some endearing Russian qualities: horns wobbling with vibrato; dry, nasal brass, massively resonant strings, and a general endorsement of the "warm bath" approach to orchestral texture.

Dmitriev's interpretation rarely veered from the conventional. If Shostakovich did mean the finale's apparent triumph to be hollow and bitter (still a moot point, despite the claims of the composer's memoirs) there was no whisper of it here. Yet the reading attained a fine passion, especially as the slow movement neared its climax of luscious anguish.

Something much more remarkable happened earlier, however. Though she first played in Britain

in 1981, the Georgian pianist Eliso Virsaladze is hardly known here. Yet she gave an arresting individual and steel-fingered account of Rachmaninov's Third Piano Concerto as I have heard. Her first movement cadenza spat fury at a tremendous pace, and in both outer movements she seemed to have the time and wit to make unusual phrasing and tempo variations, despite sprinting through the music.

But what impressed most was her audaciously clangorous entry into the slow movement, dispelling Dmitriev's sentimental colouring of the orchestral introduction like an express train thundering through a dozy hamlet.

Not the world's most rhapsodic player, perhaps, but Virsaladze is an exhilarating individualist who made this familiar concerto sound like the fresh outpouring of an intensely troubled soul.

THE ROYAL BALLET THE PRINCE OF THE PAGODAS 14 April 1990

The Royal Opera House very much regrets that, owing to necessary changes in its crowded rehearsal schedule, the performance of *The Prince of the Pagodas* scheduled for Saturday 14 April has been cancelled. However a recording of this production will be shown on BBC Television at 8.55pm on BBC2 that evening.

REFUNDS

Refunds on the face value of the tickets can be obtained in person at the Box Office or by post to: Refunds, P.O. Box No. 6, London WC2E 7QA. Tickets purchased by credit card will be credited to the cardholder's account.

EXCHANGE OF TICKETS FOR ANOTHER PERFORMANCE

Tickets will be exchanged for the performance of *The Prince of the Pagodas* on 19 April or for performances of *Giselle* on 12, 14 May at 7.30pm, subject to availability.

Tickets can be exchanged in person at the Box Office or by post to: Pagodas Exchange, P.O. Box No. 6, London WC2E 7QA. Box Office, 48 Floral Street, London WC2E 7QA.

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JOHN BIRCH

Kentucky's year for women

Women's voices dominated the 14th annual Humana Festival of New American Plays at the Actors Theatre of Louisville, Kentucky. The most famous of them, novelist Joyce Carol Oates, was making her debut as a playwright. The mysterious Jane Martin, whose *Talking With* was the hit of an earlier festival, resurfaced. Others wrote about everything from nuclear doom to the thrill of catching a big fish.

"It's just coincidence that so many women are represented this year," said artistic director Jon Jory. Six of the seven playwrights are female, although, he adds, "It has been well known that there has been no impediment between our stars and women writers. But it's just coincidence that so many women are represented here this year."

The six include Jane Martin, who may not actually be a woman at all. Many believe that Martin is Jory himself, but he fends off questions with a Mona Lisa smile and an assurance that she is "living in Louisville, and cherishing her privacy". *Vital Signs*, the new Jane Martin piece, consists of 40 monologues, none more than three minutes long, by women at crossroads in their lives. They were delivered, with exquisite precision, by six actresses playing many parts. Topics range from abortion to boyfriends to bees to wifely-battering to nostalgia for the Cold War. Martin's ear for the hilarious and the sad is acute, whoever he or she is.

Joyce Carol Oates is the latest celebrity writer to be commissioned by the festival, as part of a widely-criticized programme designed to bring writers from other disciplines to the theatre. Before Oates came William F. Buckley (whose adaptation of his own novel *Stained Glass* was staged last year), and *New York Daily News* columnist Jimmy Breslin, whose *Queen of the Leaky Roof* Circuit was produced in 1988. Unlike them, however, Oates has been interested in writing a play for a long time. "Every few years, someone talks to me about writing a play," she says. "But it never works out. This theatre is serious. It's a welcome opportunity."

Of the two one-acters presented

Edward Hayman on an American drama festival dominated by women writers, including novelist Joyce Carol Oates



Madeleine Sherwood (left) as the mother, with Beth Dixon in Joyce Carol Oates's *In Darkest America*

under the umbrella title *In Darkest America*, the better is the second, *The Eclipse*. In eight tightly-written scenes, this dissects a daughter's wrenching conflict between her own needs and those of her mother, who has had a brain tumour removed and is steadily becoming deranged.

The mother is a former teacher whose independent spirit has become warped into a crazy contentedness. She shadow-boxes with Mike Tyson's image on the television screen, inveighs against imagined enemies and coos over her fantasy lover, Señor Rico, who finally materializes in the candlelit twilight of her life. Her daughter's sense of entrapment is awful, but her impending loneliness is worse.

As one would expect, Oates is after more than domestic melodrama. She sees her characters as representatives of two generations of liberated American women, inextricably bound to one another.

The other play, *Tone Clusters*, is more problematic. Accompanied by a grimly realistic slide show, a flustered, inarticulate man and his wife try to answer a barrage of broadly philosophical questions boomed at them by an unseen television interviewer. All relate to their son, who is accused of murdering a 14-year-old girl.

Based on a real Long Island murder case, this is the kind of gory story of inexplicable violence in wholesome American society that Oates loves to write. The characters are as real as any who

ever staggered before an out-thrust microphone on the nightly news. The demand that family members talk about their tragedy on television is quintessentially American, though one feels that the philosophizing finally becomes an end in itself.

The only man on the Louisville roster this year is *Romulus*, Linney, the dark poet of mystical Appalachia. He offers a prickly and controversial little drama simply titled 2, in which he invites us to empathize with Hermann Goering — a notion which outraged some festival-goers.

Goering is presented as a slickly courteous and proud prisoner at Nuremberg, preparing for his trial. The intellectual superior of most of those around him, he chillingly

denies complicity in any atrocities, and even maintains that atrocities did not take place on any grand scale.

The lunatics who insist that there was no Holocaust will love this play, though obviously that is not quite what Linney has in mind. As played, brilliantly, by William Duff-Griffin, Goering is a portrait of menacing, satanic statesmanship, a master manipulator who tricks someone — was it one of his two guards, or his patriotic German defence counsel? — into smuggling him a cyanide capsule, with which he kills himself, thus denying the Allies the satisfaction of hanging him.

Linney invites us to feel sympathy for Goering, yet we know we are being seduced just as surely as the black sergeant and his white racist lieutenant who become the prisoner's secret admirers.

The problem is Linney's vague bottom line — a warning that, human nature being what it is, man is fully capable of inventing another Hitler, and another. But why does Linney think we need to hear this message now, and why has he chosen Goering to deliver it? Telling his story this way merely opens old wounds.

Ellen McLaughlin's windy, shapeless *Infinity's House* tries to pose all the major questions of human existence on a patch of desert, where time-travelling wagon-train pioneers, railroad builders and atom-bomb scientists cross paths and ruminate.

In Elizabeth Egloff's murky, surrealistic *The Swan*, a woman with a dysfunctional romantic life becomes involved with a swan. The swan flies into her house and turns, of course, into a naked, scrawny young man.

In Jane Anderson's beautifully designed (by Paul Owen and Michael Kras) *The Pink Studio*, she relates what she imagines to have been the randy private life of a portly, business-like Henri Matisse to 13 of his canvases.

And in Joan Ackermann-Blount's *Zara Spook and Other Lures* (named after fishing lures), a trio of women — the dotty Southern soul-mates of the sisters in Beth Henley's *Crimes of the Heart* — fight for trophies in the Bass 'n' Gal fishing tournament.

Chris Partridge on the plans to attract the general public to the new British Library

New leaves for old

In 1993 the British Library will go it alone. The tourists who flock through the bookish exhibitions in its present premises, on their way to the British Museum's antiquities, will disappear. There is a fear among the library's staff that the huge new building at St Pancras will simply be a machine for research, and lose the support of the public.

There are some users of the Reading Room who would be happy to see an end to the sightseeing crowds clogging up the entrance hall. But the library authorities fear that without popular appeal the institution will be unable to obtain the resources it will need in the next century, either from the Government or from private sponsorship.

To attract visitors to the new building, an ambitious programme of exhibitions is being planned in the galleries, a part of the building that has received general praise, in contrast to the critical response to designs for the exterior and reading room. A permanent exhibition of the library's treasures, including the Lindisfarne Gospels, will occupy one gallery, and the largest will be used to mount huge set-piece exhibitions that only institutions such as the Royal Academy or the British Museum can hold at present.

But the most innovative new project is surely the Centre for the Book, which began operations last week to ensure good preparation for the move.

The Centre will be similar to the successful Centre for the Book at the Library of Congress in Washington. It will be the library's public face, mounting exhibitions to explain how books are written, how they are made, and how librarians store and conserve them. "We are quite hopeful that St Pancras will take its place in the spectrum of tourist attractions, along with the Tower and the British Museum itself," says Tim Rix, the retiring chairman of publishing house Longman, and chairman of the Centre for the Book.

Writers will give talks and readings, and it is hoped to bring in craftsmen who will print and bind books on the premises.

Though they will be carrying on their trade, they will also be available to answer questions and explain the techniques they use to produce a hand-made book.

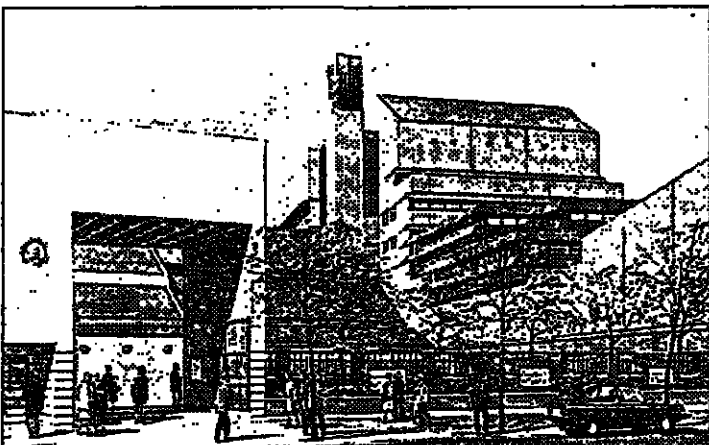
There may also be a mini-reference library in the hallway of the new building, where members of the public could consult books about books, covering the creative process of writing, design, illustration, printing and binding. No readers' tickets would be needed, but those wishing to research a subject more deeply would be encouraged to take advantage of the relaxation of the admission rules in the new building, by applying for a ticket to the reading room itself.

The Centre will also have a more specialist role. "We hope that it will be a considerable centre for scholarship and research in book and book-trade history," says Rix. It will hold lectures and seminars on topics connected with the book and the creative process of writing, as well as funding research fellowships.

The first seminars, planned for this autumn, will examine the effects of new technology on the writing profession. A survey of writers is being conducted to find out how working on word processors has changed their habits. Does the ability to work much faster make writers more verbose? Has working on screen instead of on paper changed the writer's style?

New technology has certainly changed life for the archivist. Novels written on a computer can be altered and rewritten without a trace remaining: no scribbled-over, annotated or deleted passages to assist future scholars in the reconstruction of the genesis of a masterpiece. However, many established writers have retained that they must hand over everything they write: every draft of creative work. This also means printing out every computer draft, for posterity to pore over.

The Centre for the Book will be launched formally in about six months' time. By then, its organizers hope to have found commercial sponsors for its activities.



How it is hoped the British Library will look from Euston Road

Clash of the tritones? No, everything here is harmonious

RECITAL
Noël Goodwin
Guadagnini Piano Trio
Wigmore Hall

TO MARK his fiftieth birthday, last year, Nareh Sahai was given the commission for a Piano Trio, and this has been brought to London following its Leicester-

shire premiere at Hinckley last March. The Indian-born composer, settled here for almost 30 years, early absorbed Western techniques of composition, including a particular study of quarter-tones which now seems to be overtaken by a concern for diatonic harmony in rhythmic suspension.

At any rate, the new Trio makes a focal element of the tritone, which a programme-note told us is the composer's "favourite inter-

val", while linking developing tempi to different time-signatures in a continuous one-movement structure, ultimately reaching its destination by way of a fast 7/8 metre. Hieratic in character at the outset, in tolling piano chords and chant-like strings, it effectively grips the listener with the prospect of a stimulating inventiveness which is amply fulfilled.

The music's part-writing tends to keep the three instruments pretty much separate in the

contributions they each make, and when they are combined one is usually given prominence. The Guadagnini Piano Trio, which first came together little more than two years ago and includes Anup Kumar Biswas as a cellist from the same part of the world as the composer, each registered a distinctive character to bring the musical elements into a satisfying relationship.

The new work was framed by Mendelssohn and Schubert in

their respective first Piano Trios. The former's Op 49 in D minor was easy-going in its sentiment and charm, though the instrumental blend was not always in best focus.

Schubert in B flat (D898), however, had eloquent intensity beneath a smiling surface, and if the rhythmic pulse was sometimes unduly rigid, the performance took advantage of generous repeats and unhurried assurance to work its melodic magic.

Spirits and talents quickening

The Budapest Spring Festival this year coincided with Hungary's return to democracy, reports Stephen Pettitt

It was the last week of Hungary's totalitarian era. Election posters were on every wall, a brighter future beckoned, yet the atmosphere was muted. The attitude of the people was far from optimistic. Between concerts, the press party was taken on the usual trips, given the usual lunches punctuated by speeches extolling the latent virtues of the country — and then openly asked to encourage some much-needed Western investment in order to realize future projects.

Bitter past experience is the reason for this caution, which permeated the musical programme of the Budapest Spring Festival. I suggested to Imre Kiss, director of the festival, that it was unfortunate that customers had to choose between so many simultaneous events. "We have to cater for our audiences, not the music critics," he replied. He had a point. The Hungarian music-lover saves up to go to this festival, and has neither the time nor the money to attend two or three concerts in a single day.

More crucial is the problem of how to attract the most distinguished foreign artists, given the dearth of resources and Hungary's still strict currency regulations. This year, as before, visitors included the King's Singers, Montserrat Caballé, Maurice André and Cyprian Katsaris, but the casting was confined mostly to Hungarians and Hungarian expatriates, including the pianists Zoltán Kocsis, András Schiff and György Sándor.

Kocsis's recital, in the glorious hall of the Liszt Academy, was an oddity, including, besides Rachmaninov's *Corelli Variations*, his own transcription of the prelude to *Tristan* as a strictly unnecessary upbeat balance for Liszt's version of the *Liebestod*. It was capped by a reading of Schubert's late B flat major sonata (which was interrupted by the swift repair before us of a sticking note by a nervous piano technician). The slowness of the first movement made the work sound like something by Morton Feldman.

On the evening of Schiff's Bach



Restored: the Hungarian National Ballet in Petrusz's *Instincts*

recital, I opted instead for the Budapest Symphony Orchestra conducted by András Ligeti in the unsympathetically dry acoustics of the Budapest Convention Centre. Here, a pianist hitherto unknown to me, Jeno Jando, gave an impressively unflappable account of Rachmaninov, while the Hungarian Radio and Television Chorus crowned the programme with a fervent account of Bartók's *Cantata Profana*.

Operatic events included Ferenc Erkel's early nationalistic works *Bánk bán* (which, runs virtually non-stop here anyway) and *Húgydi László*, and, inevitably, Bartók's *Bluebeard's Castle*. Incidentally, according to András Király, secretary general of the Opera House, the State Opera was due to be seen in Britain this summer. The London International Opera Festival apparently promised them an instant audition, seating 7,000, and a season shared with other distinguished European companies, but

the project sadly fell through. Three events particularly stand out in the memory. It was spiritually illuminating to hear the Gunn Ensemble playing the *shakuhachi* and the *koto*, the Japanese traditional equivalents to flute and zither, in a well-mixed concert of traditional and recently composed music for that combination. It was inspiring to venture to the Bartók Memorial House in the hills of Buda for a little-publicized concert by young musicians.

Above all, it was a thrill to witness, at the beautiful and lavish State Opera House, the long-delayed return to Hungary of the choreography of Auréliu Millos, who was exiled before the war and who died in 1983. The only two works of his that can be satisfactorily restored without his presence, Petrusz's *Instincts* and Bartók's *The Miraculous Mandarin*, were danced with lithic, natural expression by the Hungarian National Ballet.

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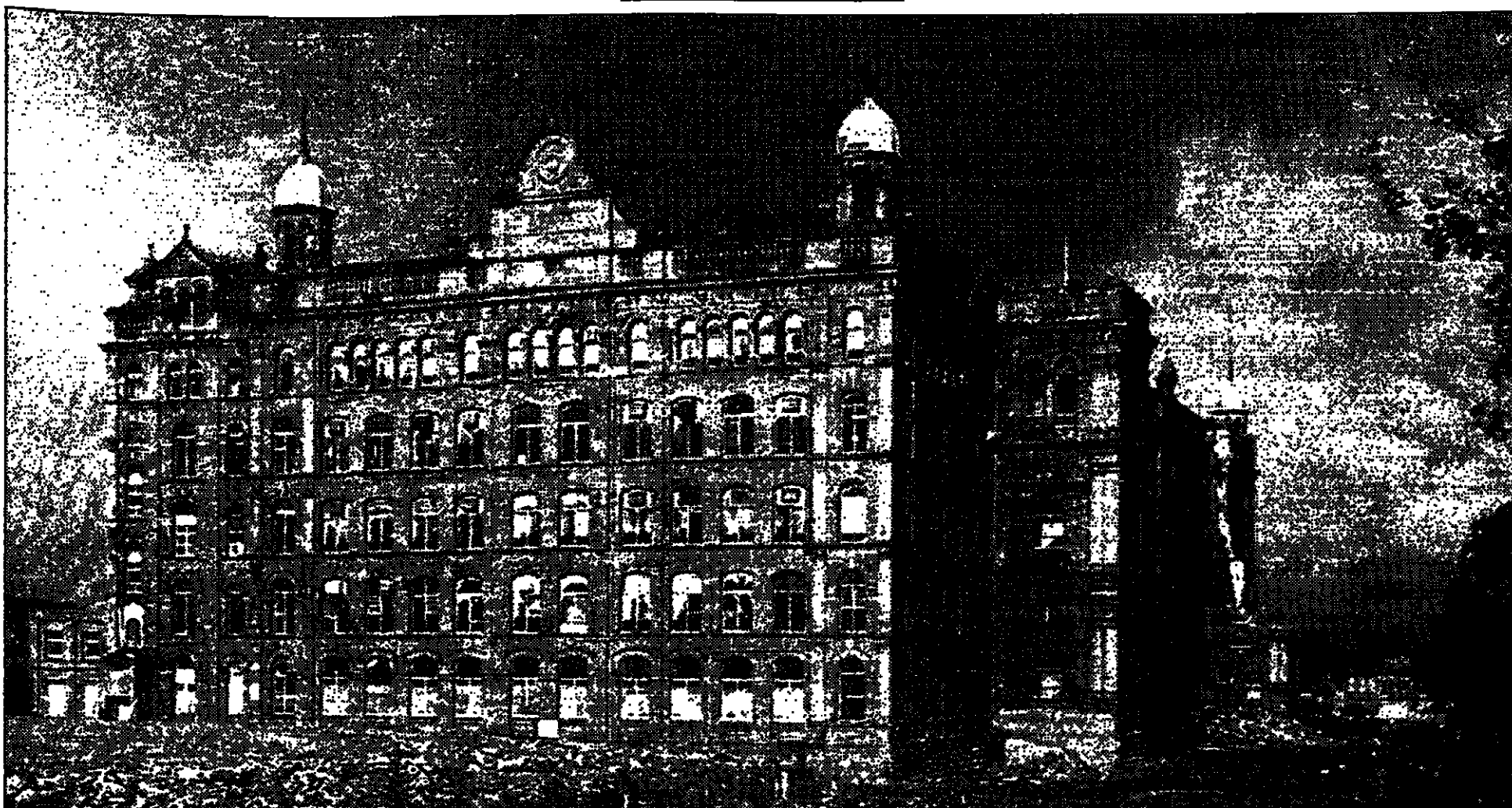
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ENVIRONMENT



An industrial monument in danger: two applications have already been made to demolish the listed Ferguslie No 1 Mill in Paisley, with its twin cupolas and ornate gable

Saving the satanic mills

There is scarcely an intact pane of glass in any of the 175 tall windows that face the River Aire from Hunslet Mill, Leeds. The daylight flows straight through the derelict seven-storey block, as if it was just a facade cut from a sheet of cardboard.

To many eyes, the gaunt former flax mill epitomizes a gloomy, grimy world which is better forgotten. The mill came so close to demolition that its first-floor walls have been drilled all round ready for the wreckers' dynamite. But to Marcus Binney, president of SAVE Britain's Heritage, it is a major example of a category of buildings, majestic but threatened, which are "nothing less than great national monuments".

"So often we find people who think these buildings produce a bad image," he says. "Recently a major local com-

pany was planning an expansion, and the agents sent them to see Hunslet Mill. Their reaction was: 'This is disgusting! How dare you waste our time showing us a place like this!' It is absolutely crucial to be able to show such people good examples of restoration."

Attitudes to the decaying relics of the industrial revolution have changed perceptibly in the years since SAVE mounted its pioneering exhibition "Satanic Mills" in 1979. A series of conversion projects large and small have shown how well many former industrial buildings can adapt to new uses. But old attitudes die hard, particularly in local government and the property industry.

This week, SAVE publishes "Bright Future", a report recounting the achievements of the past 10 years, and picking out a list of important

Many 19th century industrial buildings are national monuments, George Hill says. But as the struggle goes on to save them, it is still a race between the developers and the dynamite men

factories, mills and warehouses where it is still an open question whether the developer or the dynamite man will win in the end. The architect Francis Machin contributes a series of sketch plans showing how the threatened buildings might be developed in a wide range of new uses.

Of the 19 buildings listed in the report as under immediate threat, Mr Binney considers that the most urgent and important cases are Manningham Mill in Bradford, with its huge chimney in the form of

an Italian campanile, Saltaire Mill in West Yorkshire with its 19th-century model village, the Tobacco Warehouses in Liverpool, Anchor Mills in Paisley - and, from the 1950s, the pioneering Brynmawr Factory in Gwent, with its daring low concrete domes.

Two applications have already been made to demolish the listed Ferguslie No 1 Mill in Paisley, with its twin cupolas and ornate gable.

The report features success stories like the New Concordia Wharf in White-

chapel, a top prizewinner in the 1987 The Times - Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors Conservation Awards, and the magnificently bizarre Bliss Tweed Mill, set in the green countryside of north Oxfordshire. Other pages depict the demolition of a few of the hundreds of vanished factories which today might be prized properties eagerly sought for conversion. The most famous of the casualties is the Firestone factory in Hounslow, demolished in haste by Trafalgar House in 1980 while a preservation order was being sought.

Even today, attitudes vary across the country. "In the prosperous south-east, planning authorities and estate agents are well aware of the possibilities," Mr Binney says. "But in other regions there are so many buildings waiting to be rescued, and local interests are all too ready to see them as hopeless cases."

In practical terms, Mr Binney points out, such buildings can usually provide working space more cheaply than new constructions, for users who can take advantage of their characteristics. Most larger buildings are built to last, have floors capable of carrying heavy loadings and contain ample areas of uninterrupted space which adapt well for conversion.

The report is not pedantic in its attitude to conversion, accepting that it is better for a building to be adapted than to disappear. "In some cases, they have had two or three lives already, and only need minimal adaptation to be ready for a third or fourth," Mr Binney says.

Hunslet Mill offers seven storeys of well-lit open space, with the high ceilings essential for modern offices. It has excellent motorway communications and abundant waste-land all round, suitable for a new building on a scale comparable with the mill itself.

Francis Machin's drawings show how it could continue to dominate the riverside area even alongside large new offices in a modern idiom. To improve internal communications and relieve the undeniable severity of the block, he proposes adding a four-storey glazed entry-hall and staircase extension at each end.

The revelation to "Satanic Mills" revealed that the people who cared most about these buildings were often those who had actually lived in the shadow of them," Mr Binney says. "The businessman who wants new premises may have far less sense of their significance in local history."

Ernest Hall is one example of the local lad who grew up in the shadow of the mills, and sensed the potential that they retained to accommodate the working activities of tomorrow while symbolizing local pride in the past. But he is also an imaginative entrepreneur who had the resources to set the process of regeneration in motion, at a site which appeared five years ago to be hopelessly intractable, but is now perhaps the most impressive example of the process in Britain.

Mr Hall's vision has transformed Dean Clough Mills in Halifax, a complex of buildings even larger than Hunslet, with well over a million square feet of space. In 1860 the mills employed 5,000 workers. It was a major blow to Halifax when International Carpets moved out in 1983, eliminating the last few hundred jobs involved in the dwindling operation.

Today, more than half the

total space there is occupied again, and more than 3,000 people work there. But instead of supplying carpets to the empire, it houses a host of different users, engaged in training and the arts as well as commercial activities. More than 200 small businesses operate under its roof, and major companies like the Halifax Building Society are beginning to move in, too - organizations of the type which would usually look for modern, purpose-built accommodation to express their prestige. There is a theatre, sculpture park and business innovation centre, as well as eating places and conference facilities.

"I didn't come to Dean Clough as a property developer," Mr Hall says. "I came with a sense of mission, as a product of the indigenous working class, in an area where my father was unemployed in the 1930s. I love the north, and I wanted to do something to demonstrate how a great negative can become a great positive."

Mr Hall accepts that an abandoned complex such as Dean Clough can be "incredibly desolate", but insists that he was never daunted by the scale of the task he took on five years ago. "There was no difficulty in finding people who believed it could be done. As soon as the first businesses began to move in, there appears to be a lot of activity, even though there might be very small and there still be a million square feet of empty space."

"I wanted to create a practical Utopia, bringing work, education and culture together in one place. Probably the most important thing has been the effect on the city as a whole. People feel that they have a share in the project's success. The sense of community that has grown up here is amazing."

It is a point of pride with him that the project has been achieved without any injection of public money. The SAVE report describes how public funding, going hand in hand with private enterprise, has been an important factor in the success of large-scale projects of similar type in the United States, such as the regeneration of the Boston Design Centre and Lowell, Massachusetts (which now attracts a million visitors a year).

Mr Binney is in no doubt that many threatened buildings in Britain could be saved if tax incentives were available of the same kind as those provided at Lowell, where businesses were allowed a tax credit of 25 cents on every dollar they spent on rehabilitation.

"Tax incentives have one big advantage. With a grant system like ours, a developer can never know in advance whether he will get a grant or not. If there were tax incentives based upon specified criteria, every businessman's tax advisers would be pointing put the possibilities to him. It would make a fantastic difference to the commercial attractiveness of restoring industrial buildings."

Mr Hall stresses that he is not against public money on principle. "It is vital for all sorts of projects, I know. But it simply wasn't available in our case, and I did not see any need to waste time ranting about it. It is not through public initiatives, but only through the work of zealous and enthusiastic that public opinion has been changed. That is why I believe that the time has come for projects like this."

Where are women to turn Next?

A personal appreciation of a High Street fashion revolutionary in trouble

Next is fast becoming Then. Two thousand jobs are going, shops are closing all over the country, a £47m loss was declared yesterday. Am I alone in mourning the winding-down of the company that pioneered a revolution? Shall we have to return to that peculiarly British phenomenon in which reasonably-priced clothes are obviously tatty and made in ugly colours, while only expensive clothes look good?

The great achievement of Next, especially in its early years, was to provide high-quality, fashionable and sophisticated-looking clothes at reasonable prices; something Italian and French women take for granted. The clothes were made in subtle colours, usually from natural fibres and in styles that one would never be ashamed to wear. They were also designed by people who understood women's needs: skirts were lined, dresses had pockets.

For British women, Next was a revelation. High Street retailers had always claimed that clothes like these would not sell to the mass market. Looking at the way the average British woman dressed then, compared with her Continental counterpart, they might have felt justified in that assumption. But what George Davies, Next's founder, recognized, was that they had simply never been given the choice. Tasteful clothes had always been expensive. Apart from the occasional high-priced boutique, most British High Streets offered cheap, chain-store clothes made out of nylon or Crompton.

The chain-stores were badly designed, with lino floors and endless metal racks of dire-looking clothes. What a con-

trast with Next shops. For women who needed a smart wardrobe of working clothes it was a godsend. Men can get by with only two or three suits and a few interchangeable shirts and ties. Working women need a far greater variety of clothes. Men allowed us to buy the basics - skirts, shirts, trousers - cheaply, and to team them up with, say, a more expensive jacket, to make a stylish ensemble.

Then Next expanded. For the company's shareholders, it was a disaster. For the shopper, it was a delight. Suddenly, we could buy well-designed shoes cheaply, and silk underwear and even wallpaper and curtains and lamps and jewellery and dried flowers and handbags... We could even, in some shops, sit at a bar to eat sandwiches or salads or cakes washed down with a cappuccino.

The incongruity of this struck me finally in Blackpool. For years, covering party conferences, I used to start each morning in a foul temper as I drank the filthy coffee in my hotel the sort that comes out of an urn and goes grey when the milk is added. Then, one year, a Next spring up, right outside the Winter Gardens conference centre. On its first floor, undiscovered by most of the conference, was a little coffee bar with not just filter coffee, but espressos and cappuccinos, as well as good food.

If Next can survive here, I thought, there is hope. Aesthetic appeal will have become a mass market commodity. If, this year, when I go to Blackpool, I find the Next shop has closed down, I shall shed a quiet tear into my syrupy cup of cancan coffee.

Mary Ann Sieghart

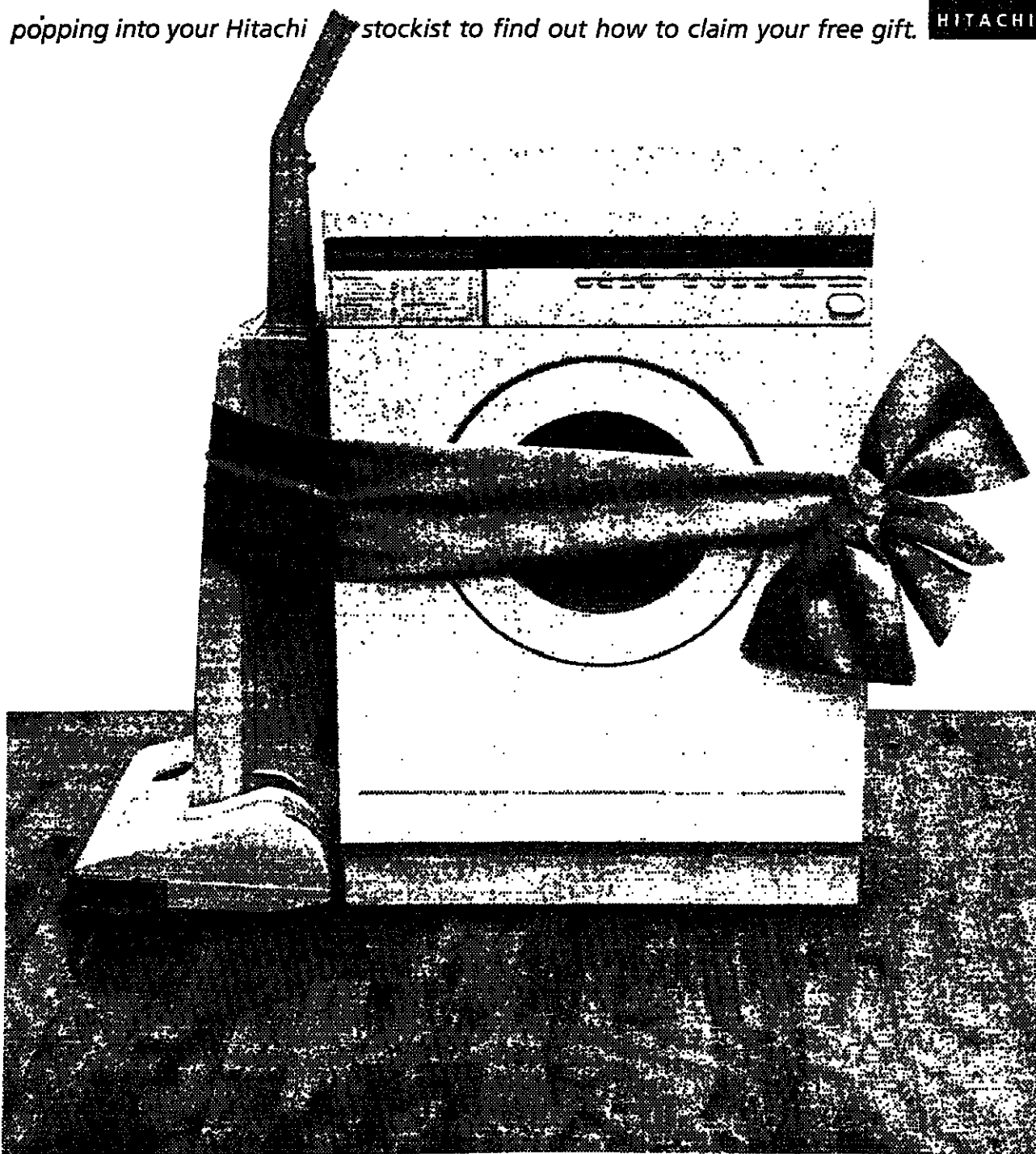


Smart operator: Next shops changed the face of shopping

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PARENTS

Are ads bad for your children?

Would you offer your child a Bounty bar for breakfast? No? Then would you consider a bowl of Sugar Puffs more suitable? In fact the cereal contains a higher proportion of sugar — 57 per cent by weight, and 65 per cent of its energy content — than the chocolate bar.

And if your child watches television as she munches her Sugar Puffs, then the Food Commission would suggest that you are doubly endangering her health. The commission believes that some of the food and drink advertising shown on children's television can damage their health in a real sense by encouraging them to choose unhealthy foods high in sugar and fat. Parents are often unaware of the powerful messages contained in such advertising, says the commission in its quarterly publication, *The Food Magazine*.

As the London Food Commission, the commission was set up with the aid of grant money from the Greater London Council. It is not funded by the food industry and says its funding now comes from its nutritional consultancy service and its books on related topics.

Sue Dibb, co-editor of *The Food Magazine*, accuses advertisers of using lovable cartoon characters to seduce children too young to distinguish between factual programmes such as *Blue Peter* and commercials. According to the magazine, food and drink commercials are being shown to children at the rate of about 10 an hour, and account for 53 per cent of all advertising aimed at children in children's afternoon and Saturday morning viewing. Of all the food and drink advertisements, 78 per cent were for products high in fat or sugar, and this proportion rose to 85 per cent when Saturday morning viewing alone was considered.

The 'Coronary Prevention Group' is also concerned at the way the promotion of such products undermines attempts to teach children about healthy eating. Jeanette Longfield, its spokeswoman, says: "Coronary heart disease has its roots in childhood. If you start bad

TV commercials exert a powerful influence on children — and an unhealthy one.

Ann Kent reports

habits at that age, it is much more difficult to establish healthy eating patterns later on. There is also an indirect link between sugar and heart disease, in that excess intake of sugar leads to obesity, which is a factor in heart disease, so we are also concerned at the promotion of sugary foods to children."

The Food Magazine does approve certain products that are advertised on children's television as being genuinely nutritious, including Weetabix, Shredded Wheat, Ready Brek, Pizza Hut pizzas and Bird's Eye Fish Fingers. But Ms Dibb believes the high-fat/high-sugar foods breach the code of the Independent Broadcasting Association (IBA), which rules that products which might cause children physical harm should not be advertised. "We are not calling for a ban on advertising of these products, but we do think the controls on the way they are advertised, and on the number of advertisements which can be shown for the same product, should be much tighter."

According to Ms Dibb, the UK guidelines governing advertising to children are among the weakest in Europe. In Belgium, Denmark and Sweden, advertisements aimed at children are not permitted, while Finland, France and Holland all have restrictions.

How much does it matter if children eat the sugary cereals such as Sugar Puffs, Coco Pops or Frosties — all given the "thumbs down" symbol in *The Food Magazine*? Given the decline in breakfast eating by many children, some parents are grateful if their children are willing to eat anything at all in the morning. Surveys show that 13 per cent of all children regularly skip breakfast, which includes 5 per cent

of the under-fives and 8 per cent of the five to 10 group.

Tom Harman Smith, a dentist in north London, believes sugary cereals are not too harmful, provided they are not eaten between meals. Unfortunately, however, many children like the taste so much that they eat extra bowls between meals, or even grab handfuls from the packet. "Under those circumstances, there is no difference between eating sugary cereals and eating cakes and biscuits — the effects on the teeth are just as harmful," says Mr Harman Smith, the father of three children.

He does advise parents against allowing their children to drink too much fruit juice. "One or two glasses with meals are fine, but they do contain fruit sugars which can attack the tooth enamel. If children refuse to drink anything but a fruity drink, I suggest the artificially sweetened squashes instead. Ideally, children should be drinking water between meals."

Research into the suggestion that children who skip the first meal of the day lack concentration has yielded conflicting results. When children do eat breakfast, it is almost always cereal — fortified with vitamins and minerals — with milk, which contains complementary vitamins and minerals. Children who miss this meal are more likely to have a high-fat snack later, such as chocolate or potato crisps, both of which are low in nutrients. However, if the child has a good diet for the rest of the day, he or she will catch up.

The Health Education Authority recommends breakfasts of unsweetened cereals (and sugar should not be added at the table), with semi-skimmed milk (whole milk for the under-twos), and drinks of semi-skimmed milk or unsweetened fruit juice. Toast should be wholemeal with a spread high in polyunsaturates. Their reasoning is that healthy eating habits, if started young, are more likely to be followed in later life.

There is little to suggest that most children are eating low-sugar, low-fat diets at present. The Department of Health's report on "The Diets of



Easy target: would this five-year-old be so keen on sugary cereals if children's television ran fewer ads for them?

British Schoolchildren" reveals that the majority are eating more fatty foods than officially recommended by the COMA Panel on Diet and Cardiovascular Disease, although the children's intakes of nutrients reached recommended daily amounts.

Dr Richard Woolfson, a child psychologist and author of *Understanding Your Child* (Faber, £4.99), says parents can hit back against the advertisers' propaganda. "The best way to resist television advertising is to make your children TV-literate. From the

age of four upwards you can discuss what is being said in the advertisements and point out there is more to them than meets the eye. You can tell them that the advertisers want them to buy the product, but they are not giving you the whole picture."

But Dr Woolfson agrees that the issue of sweets is more difficult. Even small babies have been shown to prefer sweet tastes, and he believes that too rigid a restriction can make sweets seem like a highly desirable currency — the last image parents wish to create.

FULL OF GOODNESS?: THE MANUFACTURERS FIGHT BACK

Food and soft drink manufacturers yesterday defended their television advertising during children's programmes, which was criticized by the Food Commission as flouting the Independent Broadcasting Authority's advertising code and encouraging unhealthy eating.

A spokesman for Quaker, the manufacturer of Sugar Puffs, which the Food Commission found to be one of the most frequently advertised products and criticized as being two-thirds sugar, said: "Sugar Puffs are a perfectly wholesome and extremely popular product. They are free of additives."

A representative of Beecham, whose advertisements for Lucozade and

Ribena were attacked for references to "goodness" and for misleadingly suggesting that they might help children win races, said: "We do not think it is very clever for the Food Commission to analyse Ribena in its undiluted form and suggest, misleadingly, that it is 99 per cent sugar. In fact standard Ribena, when diluted, is about 14 per cent sugar, and we do make available an alternative, Ribena-Lite, which has only half that sugar content."

The code of practice of the Independent Broadcasting Authority (IBA) says: "No product may be advertised... which large numbers of children are likely to see or hear, which might result in harm to them physically."

A spokesman for the IBA said yesterday: "We will be looking again at the various examples of children's food advertising which the Food Commission brings forward."

"Our code of practice is not set in tablets of stone, and we are not infallible, but we would not accept their charges either that our code is inadequate or that it is consistently flouted."

"We are not the Health Education Authority, the Ministry of Food or the Department of Health. It is not our job to judge the products, only the style and content of the advertising."

Robin Young

BRIEFLY

A round-up of news, views and information

Easter treats

Tiffany has launched its first collection of Easter eggs in Britain, in delicate porcelain decorated with rabbits and chicks or more sophisticated designs, from £85 to £250, all with a pillbox-style opening. Silver eggs start at £55. Other porcelain manufacturers from Herend to Royal Doulton have their own Easter treats, and eggs of in alabaster, onyx, marble and other stones are available from about £5 from the Natural History Museum.

Viva Liberty

Liberty, in Regent Street, London, that quintessence of Englishness, is going Mexican from Saturday with "street vendors" selling spicy Mexican market food, and everything from sombreros to Mexican embroidered dresses and bright woven blankets. Wooden cacti cost from £55, and full-length embroidered dresses are £45.

Home help

Wondering where to find a Victorian tiled fireplace, or a claw-footed — or canopied — bath? The House Hospital, which specializes in reclaimed building materials and fittings and unusual garden effects, now has a branch in London (68 Battersea High Street, SW11, 01-223 3179) as well as at its original Gloucestershire address (Baldwin's Farm, The Dymock Road, near Newent, Glos GL18 1LS, 0531 855977).

Victoria McKee

Quote me...



"If you sat a little monkey at a typewriter for 100 years you couldn't invent her" Peter York on Vivienne Westwood

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MEDIA

A contemptuous matter of honour

The judges have belied the general expectation that they would send a trainee journalist to prison for what appears to be a very marginal contempt of court. Perhaps they have not been entirely immune to the knowledge that rioting and unrest have broken out in no fewer than 11 of Britain's jails, so that the case for adding to the crush looked even weaker than it was already.

The journalist is of course William Goodwin, who works for *The Engineer*, published by Morgan-Grampian. He has been unlucky enough, first, to fall victim to the fault of trying to do his job conscientiously and, secondly, to be tripped by a legal stupidity.

His first error, it seems, was to check some financial information in a corporate plan which he had been given over the telephone. He rang the firm concerned (whose name has never been disclosed) and his honest enquiry alerted it to a possible leak of sensitive figures. With almost unprecedented speed, the

THE PRESS

Charles Wintour

directors sprang into action and secured an injunction to prevent publication of a story which they believed might have a damaging effect on their efforts to secure additional finance. The injunction has remained in force, and to this day no one knows either the name of the firm or the nature of the information it was so worried about. So no damage whatsoever has been done to anyone.

However, the firm discovered that a document had apparently been stolen and naturally assumed that the thief was the source of the information given to Mr Goodwin. They wished to learn the name of the thief. Here Mr Goodwin was again unlucky, for, during the course of the legal procedure, it was revealed that he had made notes of the original telephone conversation, and these notes might well disclose the name of the caller. The unfortunate Sarah Tisdall went to jail because the *Guardian* had kept the document she sent them, and a lawyer had to advise the newspaper that if they still had it, the Government was entitled to see it. In both cases sticking to the strict letter of the law ended up with scant regard being paid to the person who would bear the brunt of legal displeasure.

Although Section 10 of the Contempt of Court Act was intended to protect the confidentiality of sources, and could be interpreted in such a way if our judges were of a more liberal frame of mind, Mr Goodwin's refusal to hand over these notes, which are his property and not

that of his publishers, had been judged a contempt of court meriting punishment. For confidentiality is not protected where the court decides that disclosure is necessary "in the interests of justice..."

Lord Bridge, the senior Law Lord, spent some time construing this phrase and said that the judge's task would always be to weigh in the scales the importance of enabling the ends of justice to be attained in the circumstances of the particular case against the importance of protecting the source. "In that balancing exercise it was only if the judge was satisfied that disclosure in the interests of justice was of such preponderant importance as to override the statutory privilege against disclosure that the threshold of necessity would be reached." Justice? It is a matter of opinion whether the interests of "justice" demand disclosure or not. In Mr Goodwin's case the firm has been effectively protected against any damage; it is the management's desire to find the culprit which keeps the case alive, and the likelihood of that individual picking up the telephone for the second time must be regarded as remote in the extreme. If our judges were as

determined supporters of free speech as some of their American counterparts, Mr Goodwin's appeal would surely have succeeded. It is quite horrifying to realize how weak our legal defences stand against a steady erosion of liberty.

As it is, journalists who make notes of conversations which might at a later stage be of interest to the courts will simply have to destroy them at the first possible opportunity. Equally, editors who receive documentary material which might incriminate an informant will have to shred it. When the English courts are unwilling to protect sources, despite a statutory opening for such action, journalists must take action themselves.

A recent report from a Committee of Justice expressed concern at the recent shift in this country towards limiting freedom of expression in the Press and on television. Lord Deedes, chairman of the committee, a former editor of *The Daily Telegraph* and a firm upholder of established values, wrote in his introduction: "Freedom of expression is our bedrock. It lies with those who desire for one reason or another to impose fresh limitations on it to adduce solid principles for so doing." There is surely no mistake about that.

What do real men read?

Carys Bowen Jones
reports on the five new
magazines doing battle
for American male
readers this year

Somewhere among the avid readers of car and sports magazines, the *Playboy* devotees and the smart subscribers to *GO* lies a vast, untapped source of male magazine readers with nowhere to go. That, at least, is the thinking behind a crop of new US titles all billing themselves as "lifestyle" or "general interest" magazines, and all hoping to entice a reluctant male audience with a varied blend of style and sport, finance and fashion, sex and politics.

If the Eighties was the decade which successfully reinvented women's magazines, the Nineties will apparently be the era which re-defines the men's market. The onslaught in the US begins next month and will carry on well into the autumn, with contenders from Murdoch Magazines (*Men's Life*), Norris Publishing (*Men*), *Forbes* (*FYI*), *Business Week* (*Assets*), and *Inc* (*Inc*). While no two are aimed at precisely the same market, all are trying to cash in on the spending power of the ageing baby-boom generation.

Men's Life is preparing for an October launch and expects to pull its 250,000 circulation from men aged 30 to 50, earning around \$40,000 (£24,000) a year, probably married with children. A quarterly with an editorial mix of "entertainment, features and services (health, grooming, cookery etc)", *Men's Life* will not be "ultra hip", its editor, Barry Golson, promises, but rather "an embrace to guys saying it's OK to be a guy once again. There are 20 million male baby boomers out there, and they're not being reached."

Men, a bi-monthly due out in November, is after 150,000 readers who will tend to be slightly younger and wealthier than those of its competitor, but it too is striving for the common touch. With its information-led blend of business, sport, travel, food and sex, *Men* will help the 30-year-old man to pick his way through life's tricky decisions, such as whether to start going to church.

FYI, *Assets* and *Inc* Life, meanwhile, are all attempting to piggyback the well-established circulation of their parent business publications, and to unlock the consumer advertising potential tied up with their existing affluent readers. For *Forbes*, the established monthly which deals



Pioneer spirit: Stephen Quinn, *GO* publisher, says British men love fashion features - but won't admit it

with corporate business, the more news-oriented *Business Week*, and the monthly *Inc*, specifically aimed at people who have their own business, it is a relatively cheap, low-risk strategy for expanding their markets, which rely heavily (though not exclusively) on male readers.

The first issue of the *Forbes* lifestyle quarterly, *FYI*, comes out in September, sold with the parent magazine to its 700,000 subscribers. *FYI* aims to show affluent corporate executives in their forties how to spend their money. "They've had their noses to the grindstone for the last 20 years and now they're asking, what is there now?" *FYI*'s advertising director, Bruce Rogers, explains.

Inc Life is geared to the nation's 60,000 top-earning entrepreneurs who currently buy *Inc*. Its editorial focus will reflect the work-dominated lives of its readers and the thickness of their wallets, covering topics such as the latest in carry-on plane luggage, crocodile shoes, and the art of holding on to your family while working an 18-hour day.

Business Week's foray into the burgeoning "general interest" segment is more tentative. The lifestyle element of *Assets*, which will come out twice this year, six times next, will bow to its fuller personal finance coverage.

Depending on the success of their

lifestyle offerings in the US, most publishers say they will explore their potential in Europe, including the UK. British publishers and industry watchers agree that, in theory at least, the same opportunities exist here for these kinds of men's magazines. But it will not be easy. In a market which is less developed and less sophisticated than its US counterpart, men's magazines have enjoyed mixed fortunes over the years. "The major difference between what happens in almost any other country and in the UK is the strength of the national press here," says David Partison, a partner in media independent Partison Horswell Durdan.

Simon Mathews, media director of advertising agency Young & Rubicam, says there is a role for a general interest men's magazine, "but the problem is educating British men that they don't need to go to the Saturday and Sunday newspapers for all their finance, fashion, travel and so on, and that they can get it from a one-stop shop, general interest men's magazine."

British men have always had a problem with lifestyle magazines pitched specifically at them, either because they are not quite serious enough, or because they are essentially not very masculine things to be seen

with. Condé Nast's *GO*, the fashion-driven US import aimed at men in their mid twenties to late thirties who thrive on style and success, encountered the same stumbling block in its pre-launch research. "When we quizzed our target audience on what they wanted from a magazine, they said good, arts, finance, politics, but every time fashion came up, they said they weren't interested," recalls *GO*'s publisher, Stephen Quinn. "Yet when the third issue came out with a profile of Giorgio Armani, it was the most widely read feature. They just weren't prepared to admit it."

Despite its niche positioning and small circulation of 58,000, British *GO* is generally regarded as having helped break down many of the barriers between men and lifestyle-oriented magazines, as have other entrants such as *Arena*, the bi-monthly from Nick Logan/Condé Nast, and the *Financial Times/Condé Nast* monthly, *Business*, with its respectable title, readable editorial and sleek ads.

There is, of course, nothing to say that a successful US formula will necessarily translate into the British market - look at the failures of *Working Woman* and *W*, the fashion and gossip paper. But UK publishers will, at the very least, be tracking the fortunes of America's new breed of men's lifestyle magazines.

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You should write with CV to Daniel Fox, Dept T, Director of Fundraising, YMCA, 640 Forest Road, London E17 3DZ or telephone him on 01-520 5599.

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Previous experience useful, but secondary to good organisational abilities.

If you would like to know more about this position, please contact either Gill Bartle or Sue Forrest on 0865 842300, or write to them at Solid State Logic, Begbroke, Oxford, OX5 1RL.

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(Re-advertisement)

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Salary will be negotiable and benefits include a car and contributory pension scheme.

A detailed job description and application form can be obtained from The Deputy Executive Officer, 22 Castle Street, Edinburgh, EH1 2DP.

Telephone 031-537 9576. Closing date: 25th April 1990. Previous applicants need not apply.

MEDIA

Speaking through the side of the gag

Television video producers and distributors are adding to the controversy over news and current affairs censorship by ignoring the Home Office ban on the broadcasting of Sinn Féin and other proscribed interviews, speeches and propaganda.

Even as the subject arises again with tonight's screening of a Channel 4 Dispatches programme, in which an interview with Gerry Adams is to be accompanied by his actual words, spoken by an actor and synchronized to the lip movements, uncensored similar material is readily available for armchair consumption.

Anonymous were bound to be created by the edit of October 1988, which was hastily introduced because the Government thought broadcasters were presenting an impartial image of the views of the terrorists, both Republican and Loyalist. Now, it seems, video producers have started to exploit their exemption from the restrictions.

One company, London-based TV Choice, last week released a film called *The Irish Question* which contains extracts from three independently-produced programmes which could not be broadcast under the ban.

And in a separate move yesterday, Sinn Féin, the political wing of the IRA, announced that it is to exploit the situation by marketing the words and pictures of events through public video outlets.

The Republic's own radio and television networks have been prevented for 17 years from broadcasting IRA and Sinn Féin material, but viewers were able until the British ban of 18 months ago to watch BBC

William Greaves looks at a loophole in broadcasting

and ITV coverage. A Home Office spokesman admitted yesterday that the 1988 prohibition referred only to what is still defined as "wireless telegraphy" — initial broadcast over the airwaves — and did not include video programmes.

Norina Thomas, producer of *The Irish Question* said: "I have no brief for Republican politics but I have got a brief for making these opinions available to be discussed as openly as possible."

"There is a hunger for educational material about Ireland. Lots of students need it for projects and there are many teachers who want to teach the subject sensibly and completely. We don't claim any superior wisdom but we do feel that people are entitled to know what is going on in Ireland and what is going to happen in the future."

The three programmes from which material was extracted for *The Irish Question* were all submitted to Channel 4 but rejected under the Government ban. They were *Mother Ireland*, a historical documentary about the image of women in Irish history, including an interview with Mairead Farrell, the IRA member shot dead by the SAS in Gibraltar; *Behind the Mask*, incorporating interviews with IRA members who describe their reasons for joining and their justification of the use of violence; and *Sixteen Dead*, featuring the views of relatives of people killed by plastic bullets fired

by the Northern Ireland security forces.

Two of the original films were produced by Northern Ireland companies and the third, *Behind the Mask*, by a London-independent producer, Activision. "When Channel 4 turns down a programme the copyright automatically goes back to the production company, which can distribute it as it thinks fit," Mr Thomas says.

"But if Channel 4 retains the copyright on a programme from which it has made cuts to comply with the regulations, then I suppose it is up to them what they do with it after that."

Although he acknowledges that TV Choice's film is unlikely to be made available through High Street video outlets — "they are mostly only interested in feature films" — he says that interest has already been shown by "various education establishments" and believes that it will be stocked by specialist book-sellers.

The BBC, which makes no secret of its opposition to the Government ban, believes there is a danger that overt intervention could give the IRA greater rather than less credibility. It has on several occasions shown pictures of proscribed individuals together with subtitles or actors' voices, but prefers to use those voices slightly out of synchronization, believing that this technique gives an indication that censorship has been applied.

Political considerations aside, the corporation is unlikely to make video films containing banned footage because it is commercially unviable to produce programmes which cannot be broadcast on television.



Watch the lips: Gerry Adams's words will be spoken by an actor

Value of a good name

How much can a foreign traveller expect from a familiar trade name?

Trade marks and names are protected by registration, but that registration is territorial: what applies in one country may have no relevance elsewhere.

"A good example of this," says Ian Bartlett, a lawyer with Beck Green, the international trade mark and patent agents, "was when someone wanted to set up a Crazy Horse Saloon in the UK on similar lines to the famous Paris one. The French tried to stop it, but failed. The courts draw a distinction between reputation and goodwill and though the French had a reputation here they didn't have any goodwill because they didn't operate a business here."

Of course, most international companies would routinely apply for registration in countries where they anticipated having an eventual interest. For example, Mr Bartlett says, far-sighted firms have been "registering like mad in Eastern Europe for the past year."

The famous name company can hardly be held responsible if imitations fail the customer. When it comes to its own products or services, however, that name is meant to be an assurance of quality. From the consumer's point of view an internationally renowned name implies a uniformity of standards.

In some circumstances this goes beyond customer satisfaction, to the question of customer safety. Guests who had booked into the Sheraton Hotel in Cairo, devastated by a fatal fire last month, had presumably believed they were paying for American know-how and standards. In fact, although the hotel appeared to have complied with local regulations, the Sheraton group's programme to bring all hotels under its name up to an international safety standard was not due for completion until June 30.

Holiday Inn, the world's largest hotel chain, insists that each of its 1,600 hotels conforms to company standards, ranging from fire precautions to the type of pleasing on the

curtains.

"They apply whether a hotel is company-owned or run by a franchisee," says Aric Van Der Spek, sales and marketing director for Europe, the Middle East, and Africa. "We have a team of inspectors that checks each hotel thoroughly on average once a year, more often in some areas."

Budget Rent A Car operates in about 130 countries, and at any one time will have 230,000 individual vehicles available for hire. Companies, which are run either directly by head office or through national franchises, must put each car through a 27-point checklist at the end of each rental.

"This list is the same throughout the world and covers matters of safety, cleanliness and appearance," says Andrew Thesley, director of marketing for Europe, the Middle East and Africa.

"Standards are enforced by regional managers. The situation is very complex, though, because we have to operate under conditions that are imposed on us. In some countries, for instance, we cannot change cars as frequently as we would like because the government limits the number of new cars available."

McDonald's went to extraordinary lengths when it opened its first Soviet branch to ensure that the Moscow Big Mac "felt, weighed and tasted" the same as its counterparts in other countries. The launch in January was the culmination of negotiations which began in 1976. The £30 million investment included the creation of a 10,000 sq yd "food town" capable of churning out meat patties, buns and apple pies. Four Soviet managers also spent a year at the company's Institute of Hamburgology in Canada.

However, the special sauces and "liquid foods" — including mustard and milkshake syrups — have still to be imported from a company in Hemel Hempstead.

Elizabeth Gill

Selling truth in advertising

The controversy whipped up in the United States by a film that takes up in advertising all the way has amused British admen — and given them some food for thought.

In the US, advertisers have threatened litigation, and two television networks have refused to carry commercials for the film, *Crazy People*, for fear of upsetting their regular big spenders.

But Mike Shafron, creative partner of Leagues Shafron Davis Chick, believes the film may have identified the way forward for advertising. "I

think honesty is the future, certainly in the United States. People are less and less taken in by slick lines; consumers know now that those parry claims, like nothing washes whiter, actually just mean that they are all pretty lousy. Just as fashion photography is starting to use people with lines on their faces, advertising is starting to give more of a balanced picture."

Will our sense of humour save us from the fuss a new film caused in America?

It has already started to happen, Mr Shafron believes: a few years ago, a marmalade was advertised in Britain on the basis that it "contains no preservatives — no wonder it goes mouldy after three days". And, in reality, the *Crazy*

People truth-telling is not so new in America either. Bill Bernbach used it in 1963, with an advertisement which pointed out that the Volkswagen was squat, bumpy, and ungainly; the campaign became world famous and

hugely successful. And telling the truth — up to a point — is an old door-to-door salesman's technique; get the customer to agree with everything you say, then hit him with what you want him to believe. So could a few more-end-all slogans cause the same fuss in Britain? "Certainly not," says Malcolm Gluck, creative partner of Priestley Martin-Guzman Gluck. "There is

generally less sense of humour in American advertising about themselves or their products."

Lest we should feel too smug about our superior sense of humour and smarter advertising, Young and Rubicam's Richard McGowan injects a cautionary note: "Most of the products mentioned in the film are American. The advertising spoofed is American. If the film were poking fun at British advertising of British products, I think it would have a quite different impact here."

Geraldine Bedell

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BBC BBC BBC

Reporter

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Radio Humberside

The argument may rage over England's "newest" county, but there's not much doubt about Humberside being the newestest... probably! And there's even less doubt about the number of new careers launched by BBC Radio Humberside. Our latest graduate is moving on to the BBC's World Service — and now we're looking for a replacement to keep up the good work. You would be based at our newsroom in Hull which is an effective bi-media operation. While broadcasting skills would be useful, essentially we're looking for someone who can demonstrate that journalistic "nous" keeps Radio Humberside ahead of the field.

You will also require a good microphone voice, a current driving licence and the ability to demonstrate you can come up with creative ideas for radio.

Salary £10,630 - £13,200 plus an allowance of £700 p.a.

For further details contact Mike Fennell, News Editor, Radio Humberside on 0482 28222.

Please send a s.a.e. for an application form (quote ref. 8922/T) to Recruitment Services Assistant, BBC Broadcasting Centre, Woodhouse Lane, Leeds LS2 9PX.

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BPI Research Manager

The British Photographic Industry Limited is the industry association representing 150 UK record companies.

Expansion of BPI's activities now requires the appointment of an experienced Research Manager. Responsibilities will include commissioning and completion of market and consumer research on all aspects of the record industry, analysis of statistical information and production of information literature including the widely respected BPI Year Book.

Other duties will include contributing to the BPI Newsletter, dealing with general written and telephone enquiries, and the provision of information to senior management, press office, and member companies.

This responsible position will be filled by an applicant — preferably a graduate — with a minimum of two years' experience in an agency or in retail research. A high level of numeracy, computer literacy, excellent communications skills and outstanding self-motivation are some of the qualities required. Knowledge of the record industry will be an important advantage for the successful applicant.

Salary will be in the region of £16,000 p.a. Please apply, in writing with full C.V. and details of your present position and salary package to:

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Remuneration includes car and non-contributory pension scheme.

The office is non-smoking.

Please apply in writing with full CV to: Lynn Gallaher, Regional Appeals Manager, London Region, 3rd Floor, 16-18 Hatten Garden, London EC1N 8AT.

Closing date for applications is 23rd April 1990.

Interviews will be held in London on 1st May 1990.

GAMES WORKSHOP

Games Workshop is the world's largest manufacturers of metal miniatures and publishers of hobby games with an enviable reputation for quality and originality. Due to continued growth we have a number of vacancies at our busy Design Studio — the company's creative heart — in Nottingham's city centre.

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We need highly motivated, career-minded individuals with sound organisational and administrative skills who are prepared to mould their creative talents to the company's own, very particular needs. Experience of, or a commitment to, the world of hobby games is not essential, but it is likely that the successful applicants will either be already familiar with Games Workshop's product line, or will have a proven track record in a related field of similar environment.

Write for further details with full CV to: Philip Gallagher, Studio Manager, Games Workshop Design Studio, Eddle Chambers, 14-16 Low Pavement, Nottingham, NG1 7EL.

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TECHNICAL MANAGER £10,290-£11,301

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PHOENIX ARTS IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES EMPLOYER

Continued on page 32

Airlines plan 'love your local airport' campaign

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent, Geneva

THE world's airlines are preparing to launch a "hearts and minds" campaign aimed at combating the success of environmental protest groups in halting further development of airports and air travel.

They have been shocked by an analysis of the extent of the crisis facing the industry carried out by an independent research organization. It says that the aviation industry could be strangled by congestion both in the air and on the ground within the next few years.

An emergency meeting has been called for next month at which all 190 members of the International Air Transport Association (IATA) will be asked to fund a huge lobbying campaign to convince both politicians and the public that they must learn to love their local airport.

One airline chief, who studied the report when it was published in Geneva yesterday, said: "The Green movement has been kicking sand in our face for too long and making us look idiots. We have finally realized that we must take urgent action to fight back now or see our industry - and the economies of the worst affected countries - suffer irreparable damage."

The priority will be to appoint a leading international figure of the stature of, for example, the former Nato chief, Lord Carrington, to front the drive to persuade politicians to pump at least \$2.5 billion into Europe's aviation infrastructure immediately.

He will be asked to head a new organization drawn from all sections of the industry similar to the American pressure group, Programme for Improved Air Transport, which spends \$8 million a year in lobbying Congress, writing to the media and producing videos to win public support for improved aviation facilities.

It is expected that at least 40 of the leading airlines in Europe, the Far East and North America will agree to pump in cash for the new group which will develop local organizations to put pressure on their governments.

The report - by SRI International - will provide the "bullets" which the new organization will be expected to fire in one of the most urgent and wide-ranging international lobbying campaigns ever undertaken. It reveals that European air traffic is expected at least to double by

the end of this decade from about 267 million passengers in 1988 to 500 million and to triple to nearly 740 million by the year 2010.

The economic value of commercial aviation in Europe, it says, is \$75 billion a year and provides about 2.5 million jobs.

The cost of delays due to existing congestion amount to \$5 billion a year and that will double by the year 2000, it is predicted.

The effect, according to the report, will be to push up prices as airports charge higher landing fees in an effort to keep out smaller aircraft. Charter flights are particularly vulnerable as they work on small profit margins and many could be forced out of business.

If however the governments in Europe were prepared to spend \$3.5 billion immediately in restructuring air traffic control and improving the worst affected airports much of these losses could be eliminated.

At Heathrow the report calls for a new fifth terminal and a new runway. It believes that changes to the method of charging and taking off to enable both runways to be used throughout the day in parallel could see 85 movements an hour at Heathrow rather than 75 as at present.

"We recommend that IATA develops a series of programmes and services to support airline-led community and public education programmes to enhance awareness of the airports in each country as major community assets," the report says.

The report received an enthusiastic backing last night from British Airways. Sir Colin Marshall, its chief executive, has been pressing for such a scheme to be introduced.

British Midland has also argued for a big increase in the number of flights allowed into Heathrow. Mr Michael Bishop, its chairman, said: "We believe the evidence from the IATA report underlines the need for the Government to deal with this issue seriously and urgently." But Miss Evelyn Atlee, chairman of the Federation of Heathrow Anti-Noise Groups, said last night it will not be defeated by the new group being set up by airlines.

"Airlines are always talking about expansion, but when you get an airport like Heathrow it just cannot expand without causing environmental damage."



Time out to relax: Delegates to the World Ministerial Drugs Summit held in London yesterday take comfort in nicotine

Addiction to be tackled by inner-city teams

Continued from page 1

lished a few weeks ago, are meant to co-ordinate and develop the efforts of local statutory and voluntary agencies and to foster inter-agency liaison locally on drugs issues. In addition, every education authority has a "drugs education co-ordinator".

Mr Peter Westland, secretary of the National Local Forum on Drugs Misuse, a body representing all the main local authority associations, claimed the initiative was partly driven by the Home Office's need to be seen to be doing something about

drugs misuse in the inner cities. "What will have to be settled fast if there is not to be duplication of effort is who is going to be the chief co-ordinator in a locality."

"The problem is each district health authority already has a co-ordinating committee bringing together local prevention work."

Particular surprise was voiced about the inclusion of Brighton on the Home Office's list. Vigorous preventive work has been carried out in the town for many years under the auspices of the East Sussex Drugs

Advisory Council, which brings together a wide spectrum of local public and voluntary agencies, including Sussex police, three district health authorities and local churches.

Mr Steve Tippell, director of the Community Drugs Project, an agency providing counselling services in south London, said the real problem in areas suffering high levels of drugs misuse was lack of cash for existing organizations.

He pointed out that the Labour-run Southwark council had only recently had to cut back its own drugs unit

through lack of cash. He added: "Nobody is against better co-ordination. That's like saying you're in favour of sin. But the Home Office doesn't seem to be that clear about what the new groups will do."

At present, the Government spends around £25m a year on preventive initiatives, about 75 per cent of which comes from the Department of Health.

No figures are available for the amount spent by police and Customs on enforcement but it is known that it dwarfs the other figure.

EC backing for homegrown films

From Peter Guilford, Brussels

TO HELP fend off the proliferation of American soap operas and Japanese cartoons on Europe's television and cinema screens, the European Commission plan to pump £182 million into the TV and film industries in the next five years.

Brussels is backing its campaign with statistics which paint an alarming picture of Europe's dependence on US and Japanese money and programmes to fill its screens.

A full 60 per cent of the European Community's film-distribution industry is in the hands of US-based companies, while 40 per cent of video distribution is run by people who are not European.

European television stations spent \$426 million buying mainly fictional programmes from America in 1988 alone.

In return, European programmes and films occupy a mere 2 per cent of US and Japanese viewing time.

Of 11,000 hours of cartoons shown on television in the Community, just 350 were European-made, with a 60 per cent being Japanese.

"We have to do what we can to preserve European cultural identity," Mr Jean Dondelinger, the Commissioner responsible for broadcasting, said. But he is under no illusion that the sheer independence and variety of Europe's cultures have made it almost

impossible to promote a united TV and film industry.

M Dondelinger wants EC ministers to approve his bold new strategy by the end of the year, and will attempt to persuade recalcitrant governments, including Britain's, that commercial concerns make joint action imperative, even if "culture" is technically out of bounds for Brussels.

It could also stir the giant US television industry into an additional barrage of lobbying against any attempt to cut back on US programmes shown in Europe. With British and Dutch government support, America last year saw off plans to impose strict quotas

on its programmes shown in Europe.

M Dondelinger said that "to avoid conflict above all with the United States", the new campaign would neither subsidize EC production nor forbid foreign sales.

Instead, the money would encourage European television stations to find suitable research, production and distribution partners across Europe - even in Eastern Europe - and would promote joint film archives and subtitling centres, encouraging programmes to be shown outside their country or origin. The Commission estimates 90 per cent of European programmes are never seen abroad.

UK seeks concession before Iran talks

By Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Editor

BRITAIN is demanding a concession from Iran before it will enter into talks on renewing diplomatic links, official sources said yesterday.

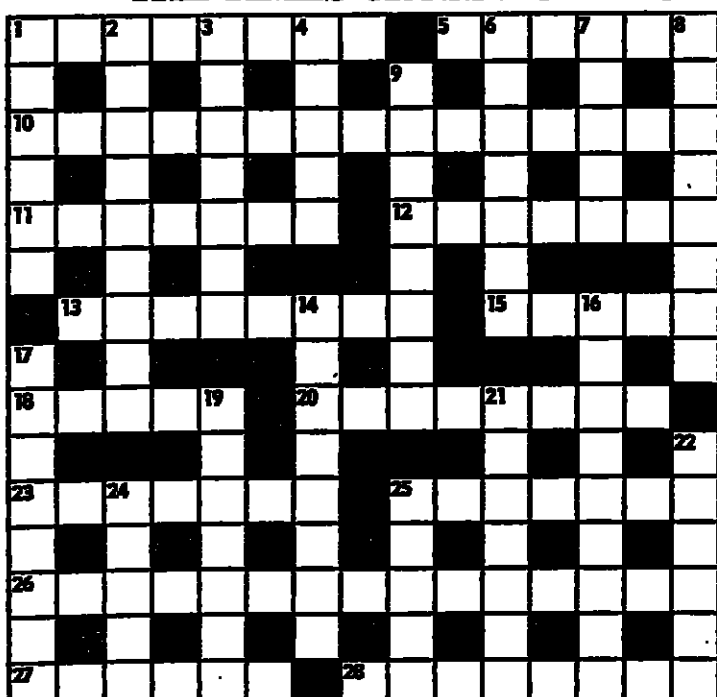
The sources declined to call this a pre-condition, but it appeared to be that in all but name. The Government's attitude has been conditioned by disappointments in previous talks, which came close to achieving full diplomatic relations last year just before Iran severed links over the Rushdie affair.

The concession, which the source described as a gesture, could be the release of Mr Roger Cooper, the British businessman who has been

imprisoned since 1985. Alternatively, Iran could cancel the *fatwa* or death sentence by Ayatollah Khomeini against Mr Salman Rushdie, or use its influence with hostage-takers in Lebanon holding four Britons and others.

The demands contrasted with the conciliatory tone struck by Mr Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, in November, when he emphasized his willingness to talk and gave the impression of flexibility. However, it appears that the Government was deliberately vague at the time and that even then it would have wanted a gesture before opening talks.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18,265



- ACROSS**
- Not right, having the larger number superior to the smaller (8).
 - Seat is free for the rest of the afternoon (6).
 - Take a walk, as Procrustes sometimes would? (7,4,4).
 - Prison leftist caused revolution (7).
 - Compelling type who once trod the boards (7).
 - Stop the whole harmonious sound (8).
 - Trouble on the way back through entering this state (5).
 - Something established as a central principle (5).
 - It's apropos when concerning an old Mediterranean area (8).
 - A series of exercises to some degree giving protection from fire? (7).
- DOWN**
- During this month one's to lay down the law (6).
 - In first section, object about division of land (9).
 - Appearance of unfashionable hair-style (7).
 - Record carrier - or priestly vestment? (5).
 - Lodge seen around north is of some height (7).
 - Dispatched about a hundred on the trail (5).
 - Ancient countryman in the role of modern one (8).
 - Conclude article in New Left context is tiresome (3).
 - Irritable because lacking in skill? (8).
 - Seat where Duncan's general endlessly dined, some say (9).
 - Shy couple left out order for Chinese food (4,4).
 - Shops half of them, upsetting work and atmosphere (7).
 - Make bold to give priest note about Abraham's birthplace (7).
 - Fuel, say, for a flyer here (6).
 - Communicate with a destroyer initially in port (5).
 - Spiritful woman is thrown over, it's understood (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 18,264

ACROSS
1. WRONG
2. FREE
3. WALK
4. PRISON
5. TROUBLE
6. SEAT
7. PROCRUSTES
8. MEDITERRANEAN
9. EXERCISES
10. PROTECTION

DOWN
1. LAW
2. LAND
3. HAIR
4. CARRIER
5. VESTMENT
6. LODGE
7. DISPATCH
8. MODERN
9. TIRE
10. SKILL
11. SEAT
12. DUNCAN
13. GENERAL
14. CHINESE
15. SHOPS
16. ABRAHAM
17. FLYER
18. DESTROYER
19. SPIRITFUL

WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?

By Philip Howard

MUSCULUS
a. The legged muscle
b. A Roman siege engine
c. An order of ecclesiastics

PERO
a. A Harlequinade character
b. A parrot
c. An ancient gumball

SOMNIQUENT
a. Talking in one's sleep
b. Eloquent
c. Seven times seven

ESEMPLASTIC
a. Like and lissome
b. Settling an example
c. Unifying

Answers on page 22

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0836 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE traffic, roadworks
C. London (within N & S Circs.) 731
M-ways/roads M4-M1 732
M-ways/roads M1-Dorset 733
M-ways/roads Dorset-T. A623 734
M-ways/roads M23-M4 735
M25 London Orbital only 736

National traffic and roadworks
National motorways 737
West Country 738
Wales 739
Midlands 740
East Anglia 741
North-west England 742
North-east England 743
Scotland 744
Northern Ireland 745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 5p for 8 seconds (peak and standard) 5p for 12 seconds (off peak).

Concise crossword, page 22

WEATHER

Western England and Wales will be rather cloudy, with some light rain or drizzle. Coasts and hills will be misty, with some hill and coastal fog patches. Central and eastern England will have sunny intervals and be mostly dry. Western Scotland and Northern Ireland will be cloudy with some rain or drizzle. Eastern Scotland will be drier with some brightness. Mild generally. Outlook: Rain tomorrow will be followed by cooler showery conditions.

ABROAD

MONDAY: t=thunder; d=drizzle; f=fog; s=sunny; st=stet; sn=snow; l=light; c=cloud; rain

	C	F		C	F
Algeria	18	64	Algiers	12	54
Alexandria	21	70	Alexandria	16	61
Athens	20	68	Athens	17	63
Bahia	13	55	Bahia	24	75
Bombay	27	81	Bombay	27	81
Buenos Aires	19	66	Buenos Aires	22	72
Calcutta	27	81	Calcutta	27	81
Cairo	20	68	Cairo	19	66
Canton	20	68	Canton	20	68
Cebu	27	81	Cebu	27	81
Colon	27	81	Colon	27	81
Hankow	27	81	Hankow	27	81
Hong Kong	27	81	Hong Kong	27	81
Kobe	27	81	Kobe	27	81
London	12	54	London	12	54
Lyons	12	54	Lyons	12	54
Manila	27	81	Manila	27	81
Medan	27	81	Medan	27	81
Paris	12	54	Paris	12	54
Rangoon	27	81	Rangoon	27	81
San Francisco	12	54	San Francisco	12	54
Singapore	27	81	Singapore	27	81
Sourabaya	27	81	Sourabaya	27	81
Tientsin	27	81	Tientsin	27	81
Yokohama	27	81	Yokohama	27	81

AROUND BRITAIN

	Sun	Mon		Sun	Mon
Southampton	10.2	11.2	Southampton	10.2	11.2
London	10.2	11.2	London	10.2	11.2
Cardiff	10.2	11.2	Cardiff	10.2	11.2
Belfast	10.2	11.2	Belfast	10.2	11.2
Edinburgh	10.2	11.2	Edinburgh	10.2	11.2
Glasgow	10.2	11.2	Glasgow	10.2	11.2
Manchester	10.2	11.2	Manchester	10.2	11.2
Sheffield	10.2	11.2	Sheffield	10.2	11.2
Leeds	10.2	11.2	Leeds	10.2	11.2
Nottingham	10.2	11.2	Nottingham	10.2	11.2
Coventry	10.2	11.2	Coventry	10.2	11.2
Birmingham	10.2	11.2	Birmingham	10.2	11.2
Warwick	10.2	11.2	Warwick	10.2	11.2
Gloucester	10.2	11.2	Gloucester	10.2	11.2
Bristol	10.2	11.2	Bristol	10.2	11.2
Exeter	10.2	11.2	Exeter	10.2	11.2
Plymouth	10.2	11.2	Plymouth	10.2	11.2
Swansea	10.2	11.2	Swansea	10.2	11.2
Cardiff	10.2	11.2	Cardiff	10.2	11.2
Belfast	10.2	11.2	Belfast	10.2	11.2
Edinburgh	10.2	11.2	Edinburgh	10.2	11.2
Glasgow	10.2	11.2	Glasgow	10.2	11.2

* denotes Monday's figures are latest available

Monday: Temp: max 5 am to 6 pm, 12C (51F); min 6 pm to 9 am, 10C (50F); humidity: 6 pm to 9 pm, 12 hr. Sat. mean sea level, 5 pm, 1018.0 mbars, falling.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Monday: Torquay, Devon, 13C (56F); lowest day max: Cape Wrath, Highland, 7C (45F); highest rainfall: Cape Wrath, 0.28in sunshine: Eastbourne, East Sussex, 12.5 hr.

MANCHESTER

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 9 pm, 13C (56F); min 6 pm to 9 pm, 6C (43F); Rain: 24hr to 6 pm, 0.70 in. Sun: 24 hr to 6 pm, 0.8 in.

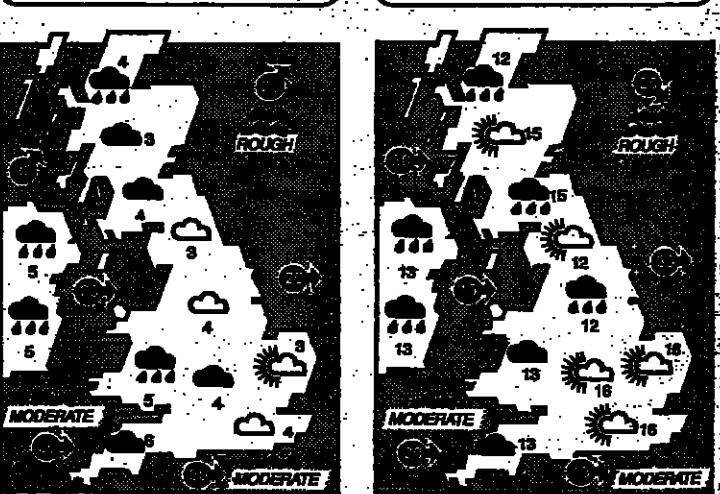
GLASGOW

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 9 pm, 12C (54F); min 6 pm to 9 pm, 7C (45F); Rain: 24hr to 6 pm, 0.08 in. Sun: 24 hr to 6 pm, 5.3 in.

TOWER BRIDGE

Tower Bridge will be lit at 10.25am today.

AM PM



HIGH TIDES

	AM	PM		AM	PM
London	12.0	12.0	London	12.0	12.0
Cardiff	12.0	12.0	Cardiff	12.0	12.0
Belfast	12.0	12.0	Belfast	12.0	12.0
Edinburgh	12.0	12.0	Edinburgh	12.0	12.0
Glasgow	12.0	12.0	Glasgow	12.0	12.0
Manchester	12.0	12.0	Manchester	12.0	12.0
Sheffield	12.0	12.0	Sheffield	12.0	12.0
Leeds	12.0	12.0	Leeds	12.0	12.0
Nottingham	12.0	12.0	Nottingham	12.0	12.0
Coventry	12.0	12.0	Coventry	12.0	12.0
Birmingham	12.0	12.0	Birmingham	12.0	12.0
Warwick	12.0	12.0	Warwick	12.0	12.0
Gloucester	12.0	12.0	Gloucester	12.0	12.0
Bristol	12.0	12.0	Bristol	12.0	12.0
Exeter	12.0	12.0	Exeter	12.0	12.0
Plymouth	12.0	12.0	Plymouth	12.0	12.0
Swansea	12.0	12.0	Swansea	12.0	12.0
Cardiff	12.0	12.0	Cardiff	12.0	12.0
Belfast	12.0	12.0	Belfast	12.0	12.0
Edinburgh	12.0	12.0	Edinburgh	12.0	12.0
Glasgow	12.0	12.0	Glasgow	12.0	12.0

Times in minutes: 0.25000. Times are BST.

LIGHTING-UP TIME

London 7.50 pm to 6.12 am. Bristol 8.00 pm to 6.22 am. Edinburgh 8.11 pm to 6.16 am. Manchester 8.02 pm to 6.17 am. Portsmouth 6.19 pm to 6.30 am.

Last Quarter April 18.

YESTERDAY

Temperatures at midday yesterday: C, moist; F, clear; S, sun.

Belfast 11.55; Glasgow 11.55; Manchester 11.55; London 11.55; Nottingham 11.55; Plymouth 11.55; Swansea 11.55; Cardiff 11.55; Edinburgh 11.55; Glasgow 11.55.

NOON TODAY

Temperatures at noon today: C, moist; F, clear; S, sun.

Belfast 11.55; Glasgow 11.55; Manchester 11.55; London 11.55; Nottingham 11.55; Plymouth 11.55; Swansea 11.55; Cardiff 11.55; Edinburgh 11.55; Glasgow 11.55.

Information supplied by Met Office.

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British
drug for
for Euro
Europe

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

THE POUND

US dollar
1.8355 (-0.0040)

W German mark
2.7648 (-0.0079)

Exchange index
87.2 (-0.2)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
1732.5 (-9.8)

FT-SE 100
2217.5 (-10.2)

USM (Datastream)
140.83 (-0.31)

Market report, page 29

Eight month
low for oil

NORTH Sea oil prices fell to their lowest in eight months in early trading.

The Brent crude price opened at \$17.05, but later recovered to \$17.15.

RMC builds

RMC Group's pre-tax profits rose 20 per cent to £248 million in the year to December. The final dividend is up 23 per cent to 12.2p, making a total of 18.0p (14.5p).

Fosco record

Fosco made record 1989 pre-tax profits of £46.2 million (£43.1 million). The final dividend rises to 8.5p (8p), making 13.5p (12.2p) for the year.

WCRS ahead

WCRS Group has reported pre-tax profits of £16 million for the six months to end-December, making £40.5 million for the 1989 unaudited, up 66 per cent over the unaudited £24.3 million for the previous 14 months. The interim dividend is 2.5p, making 5.85p for the year, up 38 per cent.

Tempus, page 26

STOCK MARKETS

New York	2730.63 (+8.59)
Dow Jones	2730.63 (+8.59)
Tokyo	29624.08 (-773.25)
Nikkei Average	29624.08 (-773.25)
Hong Kong	2942.33 (-12.41)
Hang Seng	2942.33 (-12.41)
Amsterdam	1163.1 (-1.2)
OSSE	1511.9 (-18.3)
Frankfurt DAX	1898.51 (-25.35)
Bremen	6100.97 (-9.14)
Paris CAC	546.54 (-1.18)
Zurich S&P	592.4 (-3.3)
London	
FT-30	1732.5 (-9.8)
FT-100	2217.5 (-10.2)
FT Gold Mines	254.8 (-2.2)
FT Food Interest	85.96 (-0.04)
FT Govt Secs	78.67 (-0.53)
Recent issues	Page 29
Closing prices	Page 31

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RISER:	
Steel	949.9 (+10p)
Wardle Stores	261p (+21p)
FALLS:	
General Whitley	313p (-10p)
Anglo Group	227.5p (-10p)
Comptel	218.5p (-10p)
Outpost Johnson	116.5p (-8p)
Cositan	245.5p (-8p)
Fine Art Dev	200p (-8p)
N Brown	152.5p (-8p)
Black Leisure	55p (-8p)
Mitsummer	121.5p (-7p)
Brent Walker	302p (-6p)
RM Douglas	322.5p (-6p)
M Glasgow	707.5p (-10p)
RMC Group	615p (-25p)
Body Shop	430p (-22p)
GLS A	935p (-22p)
Wardle	72p (-6p)
Manfield	400p (-10p)
Fosco	227.5p (-14p)
Closing prices	1993
SEAG Volume	367.6m

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base: 15%
3-month interbank 15%
3-month eligible bills 14%
US Prime Rate 10%
Federal Funds 5 1/8%
3-month Treasury Bills 7.75-7.74%
30-year bonds 9 1/8-9 1/4%

CURRENCIES

London:	New York:
£/\$ 1.8355	£/\$ 1.8347
£/DM 2.7648	£/DM 2.7640
£/Sfr 2.4476	£/Sfr 2.4485
£/FFr 2.272	£/FFr 2.2775
£/Yen 158.57	£/Yen 158.57
£/Index 87.2	£/Index 87.2
ECU 1.361842	SDR 0.794274
ECU 1.361842	SDR 0.794274

GOLD

London Fixing:
AM \$375.30 pm \$375.20
Close \$375.00-375.50 (\$229.50-230.00)
New York:
Comex \$375.10-375.60

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (May) - \$17.05 bbl (\$17.55)
Domestic latest trading price

TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Buy	Sale
Australia \$	2.285	2.285	2.285
Canada \$	0.6115	0.6115	0.6115
Denmark Kr	1.37	1.37	1.37
France Ffr	6.46	6.46	6.46
Germany DM	2.25	2.25	2.25
Hong Kong \$	1.23	1.23	1.23
Italy Lit	1.36	1.36	1.36
Japan Yen	273	273	273
Netherlands Gld	1.24	1.24	1.24
Norway Kr	2.48	2.48	2.48
Portugal Esc	200.48	200.48	200.48
Spain Ptas	166.64	166.64	166.64
Sweden Kr	1.36	1.36	1.36
Switzerland Fr	2.20	2.20	2.20
Turkey Lira	1.75	1.75	1.75
USA \$	1.8355	1.8355	1.8355
Yugoslavia Ddr	ref	ref	ref

Jobs cut for 2,000 as no end is seen to retail gloom

Next slumps to £46.7m loss

By Gillian Bowditch

NEXT, the high street retailer, has revealed a pre-tax loss for the past year of £46.7 million after reorganization costs of £73.1 million which will cover an expected 2,000 redundancies.

The final dividend is cut from 4.7p to 2.0p taking the total for the year down from 7.4p to 4.7p. The City had been bracing itself for bad results from Next and a cut in the dividend.

But the underlying profits were less than had been expected, the provisions and write-offs were more than expected and the dividend for the year is much lower than expected.

Next shares fell 6p to 73p and the gloom spread throughout the retail sector. Analysts, who believe there is little hope of a significant cut in interest rates this year, expect bad news from other retailers.

Mr Mark Henson, retail analyst with Morgan Stanley, the securities house, said: "The market was prepared to believe the gloom was already in the share price. Bad news may be in the price, but not the downright awful news."

Next's profit before tax and exceptional items for the year to January 1990 fell from £70.1 million to £26.4 million and turnover fell from £1.14 billion to £949 million.

The exceptional write-off of £73.1 million is up from £7.8 million last time. The £46.7 million loss before tax is down from a profit of £62.3 million and the loss per share is 8.4p down from a profit of 10.9p. There is an extraordinary credit of £58.7 million after tax, down from £138 million last year.

The high street stores made profits of only £700,000, down from £23.2 million. They were hit by the downturn in consumer spending and problems with the range which Mr David Jones, the Next chief executive, says have now been addressed.

The group has a policy of closing the unprofitable stores, 63 of which, representing 98,000 square feet, were shut last year.

The Home Shopping division saw profits fall from £18.7 million to £13.7 million and although Next Directory made a profit of £2



Jones: only way is up



Next step: no shortage of young customers at the retailer's Kingston, Surrey, store yesterday trying on the redesigned ranges

million, the traditional home shopping business of Grattan was affected by the downturn in consumer spending.

Mr Jones said the mail order industry is at a crossroads with too many catalogues chasing too few traditional home shoppers.

But he believed Next is in a good position to take advantage of the changes facing the industry.

Financial services profits fell from £7.8 million to £4 million and Next is believed to be looking for a partner for Club 24, the credit card management service. Property profits were static at £11.8 million.

The brunt of the exceptional

items are the costs of the store rationalization programme and the redundancy costs which amount to £75.1 million.

So far, 600 jobs have gone at Grattan and another 400 are expected to go. About 250 jobs have gone from head office and about another 800 jobs in the stores are expected to go.

Mr Jones said the cuts cost £11.7 million and should bring savings of about £20 million a year.

Next has made a £7.8 million provision on its property development portfolio. A credit of £5.7 million on the part disposal of the database marketing companies plus

a £4.1 million pension scheme surplus make up the rest of the exceptional items.

The extraordinary item of £58.7 million is made up of the profit on the disposal of businesses such as Biba, the German retail chain, minus provisions for discontinued business and Next's investment in British Satellite Broadcasting.

Mr Jones said he was disappointed with the results and said 1990 would be another difficult year for the group.

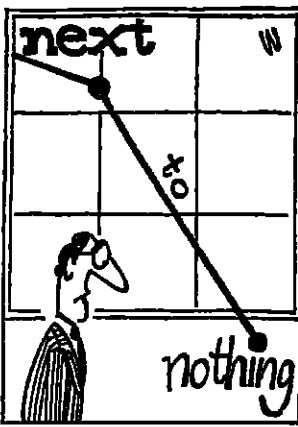
"Over the last 12 months we have taken a critical view of Next and laid the foundations for going forward. The boom times and the

excesses of the 80s will not return for a long time. Good consumer times will return but must be accompanied by greater cost and working capital controls," he said.

Analysts are sceptical of much recovery this year. Mr John Smith of Phillips & Drew, the broker, says he is looking for profits of £10 million this year but says even that may be difficult to achieve.

Mr Nick Hawkins of Kleinwort Benson says that even if they achieve profits of £25 million the shares at their current level are trading on a ratio of 16.5 times earnings which looks high.

Comment, page 27



Abbey silence wins more compensation

By Lindsay Cook, Family Money Editor

ABBEY National was able to negotiate a higher sum of compensation from Lloyds Bank by agreeing to remain silent on how much was paid.

Sir Campbell Adamson, Abbey's chairman, told the first annual meeting since the disastrous flotation.

The former building society is understood to have received £15 million for the mis-handling of the issuing of the certificates by Lloyds Register.

But Sir Campbell told the 1,000 shareholders at Central Hall, Westminster, that "nothing will pay us back for the loss of image."

He did, however, say: "The settlement with Lloyds was an extremely good one," and that the Abbey had used the bank's desire for secrecy as a bargaining counter.

Sir Campbell told the meeting that the bank had difficulty keeping its shareholders informed about the 500,000 delayed and destroyed certificates because Lloyds Bank had delayed telling the Abbey of the problems.

The re-election of Mr Charles Villiers to the board was queried by several shareholders. Mr Villiers has been changed with offences concerning the Blue Arrow share issue in 1987.

Mr Villiers had resigned as chairman of County NatWest nine months before joining the Abbey said Sir Campbell. "He has a wealth of experience and we have now seen him in operation at Abbey National



Pointing the way ahead: Sir Campbell Adamson

for 15 or 16 months. You can take it from me the work he's doing on strategic planning is extremely impressive."

Sir Campbell said that before taking on Mr Villiers he had talked with Lord Boardman, the then chairman of National Westminster Bank, who had given Mr Villiers the highest recommendation.

He continued: "It would have been possible for the board to have suspended Mr Villiers until the outcome of the case was known. But that is not likely to be until February 1991. It seemed to us it would be a waste of his talents to wait about 15 months."

Mr Villiers was re-elected to the board but the card vote in the hall gave him only a 60 per cent vote with 40 per cent against.

The other board members received 90 per cent support in the hall.

Mr Alexander Sandison, the vice-chairman of Abbey Members Against Flotation, collapsed while addressing the meeting about the legality of the election of the directors, and died at Westminster Hospital. The meeting was adjourned while Mr Sandison, aged 75, received treatment.

He had queried the number of directors standing for re-election, saying the company's articles specified that a third of the board should retire each year in addition to the appointed directors. This would normally be the case but because of the change to a pie all the members had been appointed at the same time. This made the election of five correct.

Sir Campbell said that Mr Sandison had been "a doughty fighter against conversion."

Elders hit by fears of referral

SHARES in Elders IXL, the Australian brewing and agribusiness group that owns Courage, dropped to a 2 1/2-year low of Aus\$1.84 (85p) yesterday as the market grew concerned about whether the joint restructuring by Elders and Grand Metropolitan of their brewing interests will be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Elders closed at Aus\$1.87 in Australia and dropped another 3 cents in London as negative sentiment multiplied once shares had dropped below Aus\$2 on Monday.

At that price, Harlin, Elders's biggest shareholder, controlled by Mr John Elliott and other executives has negative shareholders' funds after liabilities.

This pressure spread to shares in BHP, Australia's biggest company, which suffered a 26 cent fall yesterday to close in London at Aus\$9.24. BHP helped to fund Harlin's partial bid for Elders last year by subscribing to Aus\$840 million of Harlin's preference shares, to be repaid in 1993.

"If Elders doesn't raise a lot of cash from asset disposals or get a sudden improvement in market rating, or both, Harlin just doesn't work," one of Australia's leading commentators, said.

British analysts are divided on a referral, but several expect the Office of Fair Trading to seek modifications to the "pubs for breweries" deal, particularly on the attempt to negotiate a 10-year contract to sell Courage beer in the estate formed from Elders and GrandMet public houses.

Silentnight drops to £7m

By Our City Staff

SILENTNIGHT Holdings, Britain's biggest manufacturer of beds, has paid dearly for its involvement with Lowndes Queensway, the troubled furniture retailer.

The group was supplying about 80 per cent of Lowndes' beds on a direct-delivery basis, but pulled out of the deal in January. Mr Christopher

Burnett, the group's chief executive, said the deal had cost Silentnight "many million of pounds".

The other main problem affecting the group was the inability of Silentnight to meet the high demand for a best-selling three-piece suite because of difficulties in obtaining enough fabric.

Pre-tax profits for the year to February fell from £11.1

million to £7.39 million on sales of £159 million, up from £127 million.

Earnings per share fell from 15.4p to 10.8p and the final dividend was cut from 4.75p to 2.75p making 5p (7p) for the year. There is an extraordinary charge of £821,000 for the cost of terminating the direct-delivery service.

The shares were unchanged at 76p.

Receiverships double as the good times come to an end

Excess optimism blamed for deficits

By Graham Searjeant
Financial Editor

HIGH mortgage rates and excessive optimism among businessmen in the service sector have doubled the number of companies falling into receivership over the past year to a level comparable to the slump of the early eighties.

In the first quarter of this year, receivers were appointed to 543 companies or groups - more than half of them in London and the South - according to new figures from KPMG Peat Marwick McLintock, the accountant. That is 109 per cent more than in the same period a year ago and 56 per cent more than in the final quarter of 1989,

when company failures were already rising sharply.

Mr Tim Hayward, Peat's senior UK corporate recovery partner, said that even though trading conditions had probably reached their worst, the trend to more receiverships might become slightly worse because of lags in the system and would continue to be bad throughout 1990.

If so, 1990 would rival the early eighties for business failures, although it would not be so bad proportionately due to a rise in the number of new businesses as the enterprise culture spread.

Another difference was the sharp rise in receiverships among service com-

panies. In the first quarter, the sectors worst hit were construction and property, accounting for 22 per cent of the total, and retail and distribution companies (13 per cent).

Mr Hayward said that the biggest problem among retailers was not so much a shortage of sales as over-optimism among businessmen who had built up overheads, expecting the good times to go on permanently.

"Some companies were set up with insufficient financial backing and a lack of management expertise to cope with the difficult times," he said. "The culture that good times would continue made people careless."

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TVS Entertainment to keep whole of MTM

By Martin Waller

TVS Entertainment, the ITV contractor for the South-east, has failed to find a buyer for a stake in its subsidiary MTM, the Los Angeles producer of *Hill Street Blues* and *St Elmo* which has brought it so much grief since it was bought for \$320 million (£190.5 million) in 1988.

TVS said in January that it was seeking a buyer. But Mr James Gattward, the chief executive, said the decision had been taken to retain all of MTM. Six interested parties had been identified, but two wanted to buy MTM outright and the rest were not prepared to pay the price TVS wanted.

The company was announcing pre-tax profits down from £26.1 million in the year to end-October 1988 to £16.2 million in the 14 months to December 31. The shares edged ahead by 4p to 118p, encouraged by the decision to pay a final dividend.

TVS is paying a 5p final, making 10p for the 14 months or 8.5p on an annualized basis. The previous year the total was 13.25p.

Mr Gattward also revealed it is retaining an unspecified sum, possibly approaching £10 million, as "golden handcuffs" to keep key executives and managers in the run-up to the next franchise period in three years' time.

Two members of the TVS board would benefit, but Mr Gattward — whose salary has

been criticized by institutional shareholders recently — would not be one of them, he said. The bonus scheme would be profits-related, and TVS has already provided for £1.8 million in the period under review for the payments to staff, which would not be made until June 1993.

The decision to retain all of MTM, which lost £8.1 million in the 14 months against a £2.8 million profit, means the 10 per cent stake held by Mr Arthur Price, the MTM president, who parted company with TVS last year, is now looking for a new owner.

The shares were to have gone to the buyer of a holding in MTM. The aim is now to market them in a block to one owner, said Mr Gattward, despite several approaches over the months by institutions who wanted to break them up.

The MTM losses, which came before net interest charges of \$12 million, were almost entirely due to a £3 million loss on the feature film *Clara's Heart*, starring Whoopi Goldberg, and two TV series that flopped.

Pre-tax profits at the TVS television station rose from £24.5 million in the preceding year to £33.7 million in the 14 months. Net advertising revenue grew by 11 per cent on an annualized basis, or equal to the industry average, maintaining the station's market share at 11.3 per cent.



Profit thoughts: James Gattward of TVS yesterday

Savoy expects a difficult year

By Colin Campbell

THE Savoy Hotel, which last year signed what it hopes will be a lasting accord with Lord Forte and Trusthouse Forte after years of legal battle, has given a warning that competition for the travellers' custom from France, Italy and now Eastern Europe could make this year "difficult".

Group turnover in the year to December was a record £89 million (£75.1 million) after a stronger performance in the July-December period. Pre-tax profits rose from £12.5 million to £13.1 million, and, helped by an extraordinary £5 million credit — from the sale of warehouses for £6.5 million, less £1.5 million of legal costs associated with THF —

net attributable profit was £13.35 million (£7.61 million). The dividend rises from 5.5p to 7p on A shares, and from 2.75p to 3.5p on B shares.

Mr Giles Shepard, managing director, said that occupancy rates across the group had averaged 80 per cent, and that last year £13 million was spent on improving hotels.

The Savoy Hotel group — which includes Claridge's — acquired a 3 per cent stake in Westworth Group Holdings in a £2.4 million deal giving clients access to facilities of the Westworth Club, including golf. The link may lead to "other developments", Mr Shepard said.

Woodrow shelves Docklands sale

By Matthew Bond

TAYLOR Woodrow appears to have abandoned plans to sell off its landmark development at St Katharine's Dock in Wapping, east London — at least for the moment.

According to Mr Peter Drew, who masterminded the development and has now taken over as group chairman following the retirement of Sir Frank Gibb, the company is treating St Katharine's as a cash cow. Any disposals are likely to wait until the company has completed the final phases of the development, a 262-unit apartment block and a 125,000 sq ft office building.

Mr Drew unveiled group

pre-tax profits up by 13.2 per cent at £116.9 million, the company's 29th consecutive year of increased profits. United Kingdom profits, however, fell marginally to £85.5 million.

St Katharine's forms a large part of Taylor Woodrow's investment portfolio, which has been revalued at £801.9 million, an increase of 17.5 per cent.

Profits at the group's housebuilding operations fell by 27 per cent to £25.6 million. Contracting profits grew by £2 million to £16 million.

The final dividend is 7.25p a share, making a total of 9p, an increase of 20 per cent.

Saunders 'asked for disposal of diary'

MR ERNEST Saunders ordered his personal assistant to "get rid of" a vital office appointments diary after the government launched an inquiry into the £2.7 billion takeover of Distillers, South-west Crown Court heard.

The diary, which recorded meetings the Guinness chief executive held in 1986, was destroyed by Mrs Margaret McGrath despite a memo to staff saying that all documents should be kept for the Department of Trade inquiry.

Mrs McGrath was asked about Mr Saunders's request concerning the 1986 diary. "He asked me to get rid of it by the end of the year," she said he made the request about four times but never explained why.

"Was it a matter that seemed important to him," asked Mr John Chadwick, QC, prosecuting.

"Yes," said Mrs McGrath. Mrs McGrath said before the record was destroyed she was asked to check certain entries. She said: "I think they were entries concerning certain people." Asked who, she added: "I believe Gerald Ronson, [Mesbulam] Riklis, and I cannot recall any others. I am sorry." But she admitted she had rubbed out certain entries in the shredded diary on Mr Saunders's instructions.

Cross-examined by Mr Richard Ferguson, QC, for Mr Saunders, she admitted after the appointment of inspectors on December 1, 1986, one crisis seemed to follow another.

She agreed that things which passed without comment earlier took on a "sinister air." She also agreed that if Mr Saunders asked her to dispose of a letter before the inquiry she would not have thought twice about it.

The court heard of 339 erasures in Mr Saunders's own 1986 desk diary.

Miss Lucy Bayliss, Mr Saunders's junior secretary, told how she shredded a jotter when asked to do so by Mr Saunders.

Mr Ferguson asked if he could be right in suggesting it had been a football jotting pad as Mr Saunders was a Queen's Park Rangers director.

"You could be," she said.

Mr Saunders, aged 54; Mr Gerald Ronson, aged 50, Heron Corporation head; Mr Anthony Parnes, aged 44, stockbroker; and Sir Jack Lyons, aged 74, financier, variously deny 24 charges.

The trial continues today.

COMMENT

A small tootle for the Next Directory

Humble pie has never been the Next style, and it is amusing that even in the midst of all its problems, some of the old George Davies arrogance lives on after Davies himself has departed to add value to Asda. "Next Directory," says Davies' successor, David Jones, "represents the way in which all home shopping will have to change in order to be a successful retailing force." Take note, Great Universal Stores. Prepare for change, Sears. Next has spoken.

Jones does at least know about mail order, having arrived on Next's doorstep as part of the Grattan package. And it is a reasonable assumption that the style and quality of Next Directory, together with the 48-hour delivery service, were responsible for the 29 per cent sales increase to £77 million in 1989. But even within Next's mail order business, the Directory is little more than 15 per cent of sales, the greater part coming from the traditional Grattan operation.

But Jones has so few trumpets to blow that he can be forgiven a tootle on the subject of the Directory. The remainder of Next is struggling to shrink back to a size that can be accommodated within the concept, if indeed there is still a concept. The old flights of fancy which took Next into the bidding for virtually every square foot of decent high street space which came on offer are being paid for in

explosive exceptional items which blight the latest annual results. Jones the number cruncher has established that which Davies had difficulty in accepting: that Next works in the right-sized store in the right place. It is not, and never was, a retailing recipe capable of endless adaptation.

In retailing, rather than book-keeping, terms, it is difficult to position the new Next, except as a stripped-down fashion chain somewhere in the mid-market. In book-keeping terms, Next is in reasonable shape as the cash coming in from businesses going out leaves the balance sheet under-stretched with gearing down from 44 per cent to 34 per cent. The staff cutbacks will address the costs side of the profit and loss account and, provided the sales picture gets no worse, Next should be able to afford to pay a dividend again in 12 months' time.

Jones, meanwhile, has the comfort of knowing that if things do continue to deteriorate, he could sell the Grattan business to Sears and virtually name his own price. Sears is keen to enlarge its Freemans home shopping business, and Grattan would be a better fit than Empire (itself on the rack) ever could have been. And if things got really bad, then the 1.4 per cent shareholding in Next held by Sears might be regarded, at the very least, as an expression of interest.

All-clear sounds for BAT

Sir James Goldsmith and his allies at Hoylake conduct their BAT Industries campaign as corporate war, and their instincts will be to take the loss of a battle with the California insurance commissioners on the chin and regroup for further attacks. Pride is at stake, not just for Sir James, but also for Claude Bebear of Axa-Midi, whose ultimate takeover of Farmers in the United States has been refused essentially on the grounds of excessive loan gearing — a risk factor which has been rediscovered with the zeal of new conviction in the land of sinking junk.

There is plenty of scope for appeals and eight further states have yet to deliver any verdict. But Hoylake's American regulatory battles seem increasingly irrelevant and dated in London in the seven months since Hoylake's bid lapsed.

This week's flotation of Argos is a reminder that BAT's rival plan to strip itself down to tobacco and insurance is well along the road. The paper interests

should be in the direct hands of BAT shareholders before Hoylake is in any position to make a new bid.

The potential gains for any bidder bent on break-up and the premium it can offer are therefore shrinking.

More fundamentally, the institutional dog is notably not barking. Big investors may not regard the combination of tobacco and a huge international insurance group as ideal. But BAT's own radical restructuring plan has been accepted, and there seems no groundswell of opinion to go further.

As the arguments have unfolded, there has even been some recognition that the cash flows from tobacco have to be used somewhere and that reinvesting in strong financial services businesses is more creative than just servicing bid debt.

A megabid for BAT is no longer wanted, because Sir James has already achieved results for BAT shareholders that its management would not have delivered without his prodding.

US decision hits BAT shares

By Philip Robinson, Los Angeles, and Stephen Leather, London

BAT shares fell 15p to 740p on the news that California's Insurance Department has blocked plans by Sir James Goldsmith's Hoylake Investments to bid for the company.

The American state regulator's rejection of Hoylake's plans to sell BAT's Farmers Group to Axa-Midi Assurances, the French financial services company, on the grounds that neither Hoylake nor Axa-Midi were suitable owners for California's second largest insurer, BAT reacted with joy to the decision, which is the first due from nine states in which hearings are being held. BAT

is sure the remaining eight will reach similar conclusions.

The Takeover Panel allowed Hoylake's initial £13.5 billion bid for BAT to lapse last September and gave it 21 days to renew the offer if it won approval for the deal within a year from all nine US states where Farmers operates.

Mr Pat Sheehy, chairman of BAT, said: "We now look forward to being able to manage our business, of which Farmers is a key strategic element, without further distractions."

Investment bankers for

Hoylake Investments and Axa Midi Assurances have begun work on new plans to capture Farmers and clear the way for a full bid for BAT Industries.

Miss Roxanne Gillespie, the Californian insurance commissioner, rejected Axa Midi because its proposed deal relied heavily on the performance of Farmers to repay debts borrowed to fund the acquisition. She dismissed Hoylake because she said there was no offer on the table and found it impossible to gauge the financial effect an offer would have on Farmers.

Hoylake and Axa Midi are

likely to appeal. They can ask the State Insurance Department to look again at the application or take the decision to the Federal Courts.

A Hoylake spokesman said: "We will aggressively continue our efforts in the regulatory process in the US. It is important to remember that BAT failed to receive initial approval in several states before its eventual success in acquiring Farmers."

Axa-Midi said: "There is no objection to which we cannot bring remedies. We will be judged on our ability to respond quickly."

Skean-dhu at the ready

KNIVES are out on the electricity privatization. The Scots have long felt aggrieved that the two generators and the 12 distribution companies in England and Wales will be first off the slipway before the two boards north of the border. I hear Energy Secretary John Wakeham was twisting the knife at the celebration last week for all the float's advisers when two pipers were engaged as a special surprise for the party. The Department of Energy and the Scottish Office are hardly the best of friends over the float, and this was Mr Wakeham's way of sending his fraternal regards. Mind you, at least the Scots were not expected to pick up the drinks bill — this went to NM Rothschild, financial adviser to the area boards.

● A close look at corporate America could show that in some places beauty is only skin-deep — particularly at Amoco's 80-storey Chicago headquarters. Built 20 years ago, it was covered in Carrara marble, the same used by Michelangelo. But the 43,000 sheets were only 1 1/4 inches thick, compared with the 18-inch thick blocks typically used in Italian cathedrals, and began buckling in the rigorous climate of hot summers and freezing winters in Chicago. Now Amoco is replacing the marble with granite which will take 18 months and cost about \$70 million — more than half building's original cost.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Sartorial stricture

A SMALL piece of advice to my colleague Michael Clark, star of stage, screen and Channel 4's *Business Daily*. Those loud ties will have to go. "I would like to recommend he sometimes chooses more sobering ties for the hour of day," recommends Andrew Marks, a reader of this diary. Michael, this paper's answer to Sir John Harvey-Jones and

yesterday sporting a rather striking paisley number, looks much too cheery for the current state of the markets. Mr Marks opines. But he does have a future on television — perhaps in a soap opera, or as the City's answer to Keith Floyd, he of the violent bow ties and "Floyd on Food." Suggested title from Mr Marks — "Clark on Calamities."

Sporting life

There is obviously something in the Richmond air that tempts City folk. I pointed out at the start of the week the number of City figures involved at Richmond Hockey Club. Now, it seems, there are at least two coaching for the growing sport of mini-rugby, which features nine-a-side teams for the under-12s, in the borough. The big showdown for Roy Peters, head of investment at the £5.5 billion British Gas Pension Fund, came at the London Irish ground on Sunday, when the Richmond team he coaches managed an epochal win against the Chiltern team, which had remained unbeaten through five years and 213 games and earned a place in the *Guinness Book of Records*. Adding spice to the encounter was the fact that the coach on the other side was Geoff Chamberlain, the traded options guru who is now a director of LIT Holdings. He and Roy served time

together at Hoare Govett some years ago. Roy as research partner before he went to County NatWest Investment Management. Also at Richmond, and coaching the under-eights is Peter Quinnen, now-departed head of James Capel.

Barra boy

County NatWest is beefing up its insurance research team with the appointment next month of Iain MacNeil, now at Warburg Securities, to look after the composites. He joins David Nisbett, in charge of life, and Simon Willis, who looks at the brokers, after the departure last year of John Ross for the insurance industry. Iain has at least one distinction among City analysts — he is probably the only one born on the island of Barra, off Scotland.

● Notice above a market stall selling toy cars in Guildford: "Free: a ride in a real police car. (This offer available to genuine shoplifters only.)"

Rich pickings

THE great Drexel Burnham Lambert fire sale — motto "Everything must go, including the workforce" — continues. After the junk bond king's fall from grace, his archival on Wall Street, Salomon Brothers, has acquired exclusive use of its software and databases, giving details on more than 3,000 public and private high-yield securities. Meanwhile BZW has snapped up a 40-strong team of Drexel people in the US, including 25 experienced professionals. Leading the pack are Richard B. Hocy, economist and ranked number two in *Institutional Investor's* 1989 US research poll, and Abby Joseph Cohen, an investment strategist. Another 10 Drexel analysts are joining, along with a Chicago sales team. BZW will capitalize on this influx of talent by applying for the necessary securities and banking regulatory approvals for a full US broking service.

● GIVEN the recent dramas on Wall Street, brokers can take comfort that they are not right at the bottom of the list of most honest and ethical professions in the eyes of the US public drawn up by Gallup, although they come pretty close. In the top five are pharmacists and clergymen, while doctors, dentists and lecturers feature highly in the public's esteem. Right at the bottom are car salesmen. A similar exercise in this country singled out estate agents as the least trusted profession. Just above them, it shames me to admit, were journalists.

Martin Waller

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Results at a glance

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Turnover	£1,321m	£1,260m	UP 4.8%
Pre tax profit	£116.9m	£103.3m	UP 13.2%
Earnings per share	23.7p	20.8p*	UP 13.9%
Dividend per share	9.0p	7.5p*	UP 20.0%

*Adjusted for the 1 for 1 capitalization issue made in 1989.



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STOCK MARKET

Bid talk lifts Yale and Valor

Yale and Valor, the security of heating appliances group, jumped 10p to 278p, after touching 283p, on revised talk of stake building by Williams Holdings, the industrial conglomerate.

Williams owns almost 7 per cent of Yale and Valor and has been tipped in the past to make a full bid. Last week, it was suggested that Williams was about to sell off its Crowa Points division, which it bought, with PolyCel, from Reed International.

The speculators' reckoning the group has started clearing the decks in order to make its next big acquisition. The Yale and Valor share price has been under a cloud after its long-running, abortive bid for Myson this year. At these levels, the entire group is valued at £325 million.

The rest of the equity market, apart from a lacklustre session, with prices drifting on lack of interest ahead of the Easter break. Another sharp fall overnight in Tokyo prompted an early markdown, but selling pressure was light, with only 367 million shares traded.

The FT-SE 100 index was down 20 points at one stage, hit by selling of the June futures contract, but a steady start to trading on Wall Street helped it halve the loss. It finished 102 points lower at 2,217.5. The FT index of 30 shares fell 9.8 to 1,732.5. Dealers said sentiment had been clouded by some disappointing trading news.

Government securities reflected a weaker pound, closing with losses of 2p at the longer end in thin conditions. Among leaders, Wellcome

rose 10p to 71p with Barclays de Zoete Wadd leading the buyers. Rolls-Royce rose 4p to 191p as Goldman Sachs, the New York securities house, started making a market in the shares, and British Airways firmed 1p to 201p after another set of record traffic figures.

Asda, the supermarket chain, fell 3p to 101p as some large lines of stock went through the market, boosting turnover to almost 6.5 million shares. One line of 1.2 million shares was reported, followed quickly by another of at least 1 million.

Full-year figures from Next, the fashion retailer, turned out to be worse than expected, driving the share price 6p lower to a low of 73p. Higher-than-expected exceptional

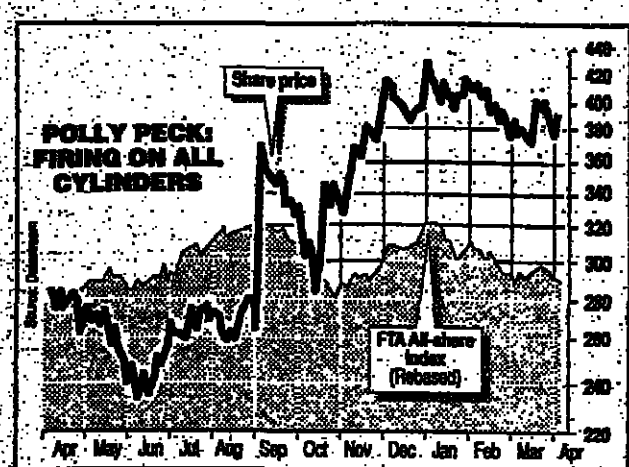
City support for Amber Day, unchanged at 45p, has grown since Mr Philip Green took over as chairman. The Prudential has raised its share from 5.5 pence to 6.2 pence, and others are expected to follow suit. Littered pre-tax profits rose 23 per cent to £131 million.

Costs of £73.1 million, stemming from store closures and restructuring, resulted in a loss of £46.7 million, against a profit of £62.3 million. Lloyds Chemist fell 4p to 18p, after reporting pre-tax profits below expectations, up from £3.9 million to £5.1 million. The group is to open a further 40 drug stores by the end of the year.

Polly Peck, the fruit packaging co., electronics group, firmed another 2p to 393p on turnover of 4.5 million shares as it continued with its tour of City stockbrokers. On Monday, it met Williams de Broe, with Mr Asil Nadir, the chairman, in confident mood. A couple of weeks ago, the group revealed an increase in pre-tax profits from £112 million to £161 million, and analysts have pencilled in a figure for the current year of £227 million.

The message from the group is that it is firing on all cylinders, with this year's performance expected to be enhanced by the acquisition of the Del Monte fruit packing business and the Sansui electronics deal. Dealers claim the shares are capable of outperforming the rest of the footsie constituents in the months ahead.

BAT Industries suffered an early markdown, falling 15p to 740p, after touching 755p, as the prospect of Sir James Goldsmith's Hoyle, consortium, renewing its £13.4 billion bid faded. The Californian insurance



regulators have ruled against Hoyle's owning Farmers, BAT's US insurance subsidiary which it bought in 1988. Argos, the catalogue store chain, successfully floated off

last week by BAT, slipped 3p to 202p as stock owned by BAT's ADR holders continued to dribble back into the market. On Monday, Goldman Sachs, the US securities house and an adviser to BAT, bid 202p for 8.8 million shares. A further 5.8 million are also expected to be placed by the ADR holders, who remain broad sellers.

Christies International, the fine art auctioneer, held steady at 332p as Mr Michael Aschcroft's ADT announced it had "no present intention" of bidding for the company. Meanwhile, ADT has raised its holding to 21.1 million shares, or 12.2 per cent of the company.

EMC Group fell 17p to 623p despite increasing 1989 pre-tax profits by 20 per cent to £248 million. Mr John Campbell, the chairman, said inflation and higher interest rates were making trading difficult in Britain, but he expected the group to enjoy further growth in Europe and estimated that overseas operating profits could outstrip those achieved in Britain.

Taylor Woodrow, the construction group, fell 4p to 245p after reporting a rise in 1989 pre-tax profits from £104.3 million to £116.9 million. Mr Peter Drew, the chairman, said it had been a hard year, but measures had been taken to improve and extend the group's activities and provide "valuable rewards" for the future.

Oil shares made a nervous start, worried by the renewed weakness in the price of crude oil, with Brent crude for May delivery losing almost a cent at \$16.65 a barrel. Brokers like Hoare Govett and Smith New Court reckon the oil majors are looking overvalued and believe further falls may be on the cards. However, prices managed to close above their worst levels. BP shed 1 1/2p to 317p. Shell, 2p to 448p. Laclede, 9p to 595p. Barmak, 10p to 622p. Enterprise, 12p to 360p.

Michael Clark

TOKYO

Nikkei in 773 points slide on late selling

Tokyo LATE selling pulled share prices sharply down at the close in this trade.

Some brokers said the yen's failure to strengthen triggered more selling of stocks.

Mourning fears that Japan may have to raise interest rates to support the yen exacerbated the selloff.

Many blue chip electricals, that were bought in the morning, fell on profit-taking.

"Futures came off, there was strength over the past two days and blue chips faded," said one foreign broker.

The Nikkei index topped 773.25 points, or 2.54 per cent, to 29,624.68 after surging 1,119.51 on Monday.

One broker said dealers were closing their positions and selling off stocks.

Turnover was about 550 million shares compared with 800 million on Monday, demonstrating that many investors clung to the sidelines rather than traded.

"There was a lot of disappointment selling near the close," said Mr Masahiko Tsuyuzaki, chief trader at Tachibana Securities. "Many investors thought the yen would stay strong following the G7 (Group of Seven nations) meeting. But it didn't."

Several brokers attributed much of the decline to natural profit-taking in the past two days of sharp gains.

● Hong Kong — The Hang Seng index eased 12.41 points to 2,942.33, in quiet trading, and the Hong Kong index lost 8.78 to 1,934.40. Turnover dropped to HK\$791.43 million (£62.1 million) from HK\$911.10 million on Monday.

● Singapore — The Straits Times industrial index rose 3.80 points to end at 1,509.38. Brokers said most investors stayed away in the absence of positive leads.

● Sydney — The All-Ordinary index finished 16.4 points down at 1,511.9, off its low at 1,510.4. The market closed weaker in thin trade in sympathy with bearish sentiment overseas made worse by another sharp fall in Tokyo.

● Frankfurt — The DAX index closed 25.35 points lower at 1,898.51. Dealers said the price falls came in low volume trade, with most investors staying on the sidelines. (Reuter)

WALL STREET

Dow edges ahead

New York WALL Street shares showed a narrow overall loss but blue chips recovered the few points dropped in early trading.

The Dow Jones industrial average was up 2.70 points at 2,724.77.

Falling shares, moderately

outnumbered advancing ones.

Mr Ned Collins, a Daiwa executive, said trading was slow with two holidays this week. The market will be closed on Friday. "The market acts as though it wants to do better. I think it's trying to rally," he said. (Reuter)

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WORLD MARKET INDICES

Index	Value	Daily change (%)	Yearly change (%)	Daily change (%)	Yearly change (%)	Daily change (%)	Yearly change (%)
The World	774.9	-0.9	-15.8	-0.8	-11.5	-1.3	-14.5
(free)	1380.0	-0.9	-15.7	-0.8	-11.7	-1.3	-14.6
EAFE	1231.3	-1.6	-21.0	-1.5	-16.0	-2.0	-19.9
(free)	1253.5	-1.6	-21.2	-1.7	-16.2	-2.0	-20.2
Europe	734.1	-0.4	-3.5	-0.6	-3.5	-0.7	-2.9
(free)	1582.0	-0.4	-3.2	-0.6	-3.5	-0.6	-2.0
Nth America	511.8	0.3	-4.3	-0.3	-3.7	-0.1	-3.7
Nordic	1499.7	0.0	-3.6	-0.3	-3.6	-0.4	-2.4
(free)	237.8	-0.1	1.1	-0.3	1.1	-0.4	2.4
Pacific	2745.3	-2.5	-30.8	-2.3	-23.4	-2.9	-29.9
Far East	3865.7	-2.6	-31.5	-2.3	-24.0	-3.0	-30.6
Australia	305.0	-1.2	-12.2	-1.2	-6.0	-1.5	-11.1
Austria	2112.0	-0.4	-0.8	-0.8	-43.9	-0.8	-44.9
Belgium	910.3	0.1	-7.5	-0.3	-8.0	-0.3	-8.3
Canada	539.9	0.0	-10.2	-0.3	-8.7	-0.5	-9.0
Denmark	1381.1	0.3	-3.4	0.0	-2.8	0.0	-4.7
Finland	1052.2	0.6	-8.8	0.3	-8.7	0.3	-7.6
(free)	144.7	0.9	-2.9	0.8	-2.8	0.8	-1.6
France	827.5	-0.2	-2.3	-0.6	-1.8	-0.5	-3.6
Germany	968.8	-0.8	5.6	-1.1	6.9	-1.1	6.9
Hong Kong	2284.9	-0.3	3.0	-0.7	4.3	-0.7	4.3
Italy	381.2	0.3	-1.1	-0.1	-1.9	-0.1	-1.2
Japan	4163.7	-2.7	-32.5	-2.4	-24.8	-3.1	-31.6
Netherlands	894.3	-0.2	-5.4	-0.8	-4.5	-0.8	-4.2
New Zealand	87.5	0.2	-16.1	0.0	-11.9	-0.2	-14.0
Norway	1537.8	-1.3	-14.6	-1.1	-15.3	-1.7	-16.0
(free)	269.0	-1.4	-15.2	-1.2	-16.3	-1.8	-16.7
Singapore	1922.1	0.8	-3.6	0.5	-3.5	0.4	-2.4
Spain	199.2	0.3	-15.9	0.0	-16.4	0.0	-14.8
Sweden	1580.5	0.1	-9.3	-0.3	-9.3	-0.3	-8.1
(free)	225.8	0.2	-8.7	-0.2	-8.7	-0.2	-5.5
Switzerland	867.0	-0.3	-5.2	-0.5	-6.7	-0.7	-4.0
(free)	132.6	0.3	-5.0	-0.5	-6.5	-0.7	-3.8
UK	657.3	-0.6	-8.8	-0.6	-8.8	-1.0	-7.7
USA	461.7	0.3	-4.5	-0.1	-3.2	-0.1	-3.2

TRADITIONAL OPTIONS

Index	Value	Daily change (%)	Yearly change (%)	Daily change (%)	Yearly change (%)	Daily change (%)	Yearly change (%)
FT-SE 100	2217.5	-10.2	-1.3	-10.2	-1.3	-10.2	-1.3
FT-SE 250	1732.5	-9.8	-1.3	-9.8	-1.3	-9.8	-1.3
FT-SE 350	1732.5	-9.8	-1.3	-9.8	-1.3	-9.8	-1.3
FT-SE 450	1732.5	-9.8	-1.3	-9.8	-1.3	-9.8	-1.3
FT-SE 550	1732.5	-9.8	-1.3	-9.8	-1.3	-9.8	-1.3
FT-SE 650	1732.5	-9.8	-1.3	-9.8	-1.3	-9.8	-1.3
FT-SE 750	1732.5	-9.8	-1.3	-9.8	-1.3	-9.8	-1.3
FT-SE 850	1732.5	-9.8	-1.3	-9.8	-1.3	-9.8	-1.3
FT-SE 950	1732.5	-9.8	-1.3	-9.8	-1.3	-9.8	-1.3
FT-SE 1050	1732.5	-9.8	-1.3	-9.8	-1.3	-9.8	-1.3
FT-SE 1150	1732.5	-9.8	-1.3	-9.8	-1.3	-9.8	-1.3
FT-SE 1250	1732.5	-9.8	-1.3	-9.8	-1.3	-9.8	-1.3
FT-SE 1350	1732.5	-9.8	-1.3	-9.8	-1.3	-9.8	-1.3
FT-SE 1450	1732.5	-9.8	-1.3	-9.8	-1.3	-9.8	-1.3
FT-SE 1550	1732.5	-9.8	-1.3	-9.8	-1.3	-9.8	-1.3
FT-SE 1650	1732.5	-9.8	-1.3	-9.8	-1.3	-9.8	-1.3
FT-SE 1750	1732.5	-9.8	-1.3	-9.8	-1.3	-9.8	-1.3
FT-SE 1850	1732.5	-9.8	-1.3	-9.8	-1.3	-9.8	-1.3
FT-SE 1950	1732.5	-9.8	-1.3	-9.8	-1.3	-9.8	-1.3
FT-SE 2050	1732.5	-9.8	-1.3	-9.8	-1.3	-9.8	-1.3
FT-SE 2150	1732.5	-9.8	-1.3	-9.8	-1.3	-9.8	-1.3
FT-SE 2250	1732.5	-9.8	-1.3	-9.8	-1.3	-9.8	-1.3
FT-SE 2350	1732.5	-9.8	-1.3	-9.8	-1.3	-9.8	-1.3
FT-SE 2450	1732.5	-9.8	-1.3	-9.8	-1.3	-9.8	-1.3
FT-SE 2550	1732.5	-9.8	-1.3	-9.8	-1.3	-9.8	-1.3
FT-SE 2650	1732.5	-9.8	-1.3	-9.8	-1.3	-9.8	-1.3
FT-SE 2750	1732.5	-9.8	-1.3	-9.8	-1.3	-9.8	-1.3
FT-SE 2850	1732.5	-9.8	-1.3	-9.8	-1.3	-9.8	-1.3
FT-SE 2950	1732.5	-9.8	-1.3	-9.8	-1.3	-9.8	-1.3
FT-SE 3050	1732.5	-9.8	-1.3	-9.8	-1.3	-9.8	-1.3
FT-SE 3150	1732.5	-9.8	-1.3	-9.8	-1.3	-9.8	-1.3
FT-SE 3250	1732.5	-9.8	-1.3	-9.8	-1.3	-9.8	-1.3
FT-SE 3350	1732.5	-9.8	-1.3	-9.8	-1.3	-9.8	-1.3
FT-SE 3450	1732.5	-9.8	-1.3	-9.8	-1.3	-9.8	-1.3
FT-SE 3550	1732.5	-9.8	-1.3	-9.8	-1.3	-9.8	-1.3
FT-SE 3650	1732.5	-9.8	-1.3	-9.8	-1.3	-9.8	-1.3
FT-SE 3750	1732.5	-9.8	-1.3	-9.8	-1.3	-9.8	-1.3
FT-SE 3850	1732.5	-9.8	-1.3	-9.8	-1.3	-9.8	-1.3
FT-SE 3950	1732.5	-9.8	-1.3	-9.8	-1.3	-9.8	-1.3
FT-SE 4050	1732.5	-9.8	-1.3	-9.8	-1.3	-9.8	-1.3
FT-SE 4150	1732.5	-9.8	-1.3	-9.8	-1.3	-9.8	-1.3
FT-SE 4250	1732.5	-9.8	-1.3	-9.8	-1.3	-9.8	-1.3
FT-SE 4350	1732.5	-9.8	-1.3	-9.8	-1.3	-9.8	-1.3
FT-SE 4450	1732.5	-9.8	-1.3	-9.8	-1.3	-9.8	-1.3
FT-SE 4550	1732.5	-9.8	-1.3	-9.8	-1.3	-9.8	-1.3
FT-SE 4650	1732.5	-9.8	-1.3	-9.8	-1.3	-9.8	-1.3
FT-SE 4750	1732.5	-9.8	-1.3	-9.8	-1.3	-9.8	-1.3
FT-SE 4850	1732.5	-9.8	-1.3	-9.8	-1.3	-9.8	-1.3
FT-SE 4950	1732.5	-9.8	-1.3	-9.8	-1.3	-9.8	-1.3
FT-SE 5050	1732.5	-9.8	-1.3	-9.8	-1.3	-9.8	-1.

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THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

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UNLISTED SECURITIES

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FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Exchange index compared with 1985 was down at 87.2 (day's range 87.0-87.2).

Market rates for April 10		Forward rates		
Range	Close	1 month	3 month	
New York	1.8315-1.8360	1.8350-1.8360	0.93-0.92p	2.63-2.81p
Mon/Tri	1.8850-1.8910	1.8892-1.9018	0.94-0.92p	0.63-0.51p
Amsterd	1.1078-1.114	1.1138-1.114	1-1/2p	4-5/4p
London	1.0727-1.0752	1.0752-1.0752	1-1/2p	4-5/4p
Copenhagen	10.5345-10.5702	10.5474-10.5702	3-2p	10-8/4p
Lisbon	1.0272-1.0309	1.0283-1.0309	34-25p	54-74p
Dublin	2.7732-2.7825	2.7732-2.7825	4-1/2p	4-1/2p
Madrid	243.60-245.07	241-245.07	8-9p	72-107p
Oslo	174.17-175.52	174.94-175.36	16-17p	58-19p
Stockholm	202.07-203.25	202.07-203.25	16-17p	58-19p
Oso	10.5893-10.7240	10.7011-10.7240	3-2p	8-7/4p
Paris	1.6553-1.6594	1.6583-1.6594	4-3/4p	11-11/4p
Frankfurt	0.9818-0.9845	0.9828-0.9845	4-3/4p	11-11/4p
Tokyo	25.255-25.291	25.259-25.291	1-1/4p	4-1/4p
Osaka	9.58-9.61	9.58-9.61	1-1/4p	4-1/4p
Vienna	18.40-18.45	18.43-18.45	10-9/4p	28-28p
Zurich	2.4-2.42	2.4402-2.441	10-9/4p	3-1/4p
Premium = $\frac{\text{Forward} - \text{Discount} = \text{Rate}}{\text{Rate}}$ Rate and Base Rate are quoted by RBC and Societe Generale				

MONEY MARKETS

[illegible]

THIRD MARKET

74	43	AGS Domet	49	46	...	1.3	3.0	9.0
75	43	Amesbury	39	36	...	1	...	...
76	43	Amesbury	39	36	...	1	...	...
77	38	Amesbury	39	36	...	1	...	...
78	38	Amesbury	39	36	...	1	...	...
79	38	Amesbury	39	36	...	1	...	...
80	38	Amesbury	39	36	...	1	...	...
81	38	Amesbury	39	36	...	1	...	...
82	38	Amesbury	39	36	...	1	...	...
83	38	Amesbury	39	36	...	1	...	...
84	38	Amesbury	39	36	...	1	...	...
85	38	Amesbury	39	36	...	1	...	...
86	38	Amesbury	39	36	...	1	...	...
87	38	Amesbury	39	36	...	1	...	...
88	38	Amesbury	39	36	...	1	...	...
89	38	Amesbury	39	36	...	1	...	...
90	38	Amesbury	39	36	...	1	...	...
91	38	Amesbury	39	36	...	1	...	...
92	38	Amesbury	39	36	...	1	...	...
93	38	Amesbury	39	36	...	1	...	...
94	38	Amesbury	39	36	...	1	...	...
95	38	Amesbury	39	36	...	1	...	...
96	38	Amesbury	39	36	...	1	...	...
97	38	Amesbury	39	36	...	1	...	...
98	38	Amesbury	39	36	...	1
99	38	Amesbury	39	36	...	1
100	38	Amesbury	39	36	...	1

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

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LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

LONDON FINANCIAL FLOWERS					LONDON FINANCIAL FLOWERS				
Open	High	Low	Close	Vol	Open	High	Low	Close	Vol
FT-SE 100					Three month EC				
90.50	223.50	223.00	223.00	17594	90.50	89.37	89.37	89.37	1392
Sep 90	NT	NT	222.00	4070	Sep 90	89.37	89.37	89.37	1536
Three Month Sterlings					Three month US				
90.50	85.01	85.01	85.01	148260	90.50	85.01	85.01	85.01	1536
Sep 90	85.01	85.01	85.01	17512	Jun 90	85.01	85.01	85.01	1536
Three Month Eurodollar					Three month Japanese Gov Bond				
90.50	91.37	91.37	91.37	28450	90.50	91.37	91.37	91.37	1536
Sep 90	91.37	91.37	91.37	1720	Jun 90	91.37	91.37	91.37	1536
Three Month Euro DM					German Gov Bond				
90.50	91.09	91.09	91.09	64590	90.50	91.09	91.09	91.09	1536
Sep 90	91.09	91.09	91.09	2912	Jun 90	91.09	91.09	91.09	1536

COMMODITIES

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MONEY! MONEY! MONEY!

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Young, CIMA qualified accountant required for this West End publishing company. Ideal opportunity if you have ICAEW 123 and main frame computing experience. You will be working directly under the Chief Accountant. No staff. Don't hesitate. Call Amanda Dobbs on 01-629 4031.

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01-834 0388WEST END
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We are the U.K. subsidiary of a large French company involved in the fields of human and animal healthcare, perfumes and fragrances and bio-active chemicals, with current U.K. sales in excess of £40 million.

An internal career move has created this opportunity for a high calibre Executive Secretary capable of working under pressure in a demanding and fast-moving environment.

Mature, commercially aware and with a strong, lively personality you will be expected to handle confidently and efficiently a wide range of duties, including matters of a highly confidential nature, and to relate easily with senior level executives in the U.K. and France.

Well-developed technical skills are obviously essential, but of more importance will be your excellent interpersonal skills, organisational ability and command of the French language.

Currently working at senior level you will preferably be educated to degree level or equivalent with a fluent written and spoken knowledge of French.

We offer an exceptional salary plus benefits which include 25 days holiday pension and life assurance schemes, private health care and subsidised restaurant.

To apply, please write with full CV and salary details to Laura White, Personnel Manager, Sanofi UK Ltd, Floats Road, Manchester M23 9NF.



YOUR LIFE TODAY AND TOMORROW

SHAPE SUPREME HEADQUARTERS ALLIED POWERS EUROPE

North Atlantic Treaty Organisation located near Mons, Belgium seeks:

EXPERIENCED SHORTHAND TYPISTS

Ref: ES980

In order to be considered, candidates must be nationals of NATO member countries and aged at least 21 years. A good education, preferably a minimum of two GCE A levels, at least two years' office experience and speeds of 80/45 wpm shorthand/typing are required. Previous experience of word-processing and a knowledge of French are both assets.

Net starting monthly tax-free salary is approx. £1,200. Fringe benefits include pension/savings scheme and generous medical care plan. Staff members are entitled to 2 weeks paid annual leave plus two weeks home leave (including paid travel) every two years.

SHAPE offers challenging work in an international environment with Community life, social activities and sporting facilities. SHAPE is ideally located on the Continent with good connections to the UK and many European towns.

Typewritten personal resume and handwritten cover letter giving full particulars (including which types of WP systems used) and stating the above information should be post-marked not later than 21 April 1990, and forwarded to the following address:

Recruitment Officer
LOCMAN-LPC
Supreme Headquarters Allied
Powers Europe
S.P.F.O. 26.

Official application forms will only be sent to suitable potential candidates for further consideration. Tests and interviews for those who further qualify will be held in London 28/29/30 June 1990.

Candidates who successfully pass the tests and interviews will be placed on a reserve list of candidates for consideration for future vacancies.

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

£16,000

You will assist the two directors of this international company to run the London Headquarters. As manager of the office you will undertake all admin duties plus giving your experienced secretarial support when necessary. Duties include organising press conferences and briefings. Shorthand 90 wpm and WP knowledge. Age 25 to 45. Call Lynn Lait on 486 6951 at Z-RAK Rec Cons.

Zarak Partnership

CREATIVE MEDIA AND MARKETING

Continued from page 21

BOOK DESIGNER CHILDREN'S BOOKS

A talented designer is needed to join a busy creative company producing a wide range of children's books for publishers worldwide. You will need typographical and layout skills, and be able to produce creative work while working under pressure to tight deadlines. Previous experience is essential.

If you have a keen eye for detail, organisational skills and can use your initiative, please write with details of your training, experience and current salary to:

David Fielder
SADIE FIELDS PRODUCTIONS LTD
30 WESTPOINT,
35/37 Warple Way, London W3 9RG

CITY TRAINEES

Immediate vacancies for people (20+) to start a new career with full training. The world of finance has fast-moving, exciting careers, with great prospects and high incomes. Details from Anita Lee 01-240 5569 (day) or 01-558 7738 (even). Rec Cons.

DYNAMIC SALES/PR

for small international fashion co., must have knowledge of either U.S., French or Italian Market. Tel 01 747 3826

SOAMES & COMPANY ESTATE AGENTS

SW3

An enthusiastic Secretary required for busy Chelsea Estate Agents, WP and general office duties. Salary negotiable. A.C. Previous experience essential, but not essential. Please contact Karen on 351 0077.

SECRETARY/RECEPTIONIST

Age 21-28 for International Consulting firm in the City. Smart, with pleasant telephone manner, good knowledge of word processing and English language. Hours 9.00-5.30, salary £10,000 plus benefits. Start early May.

Please write Celia Cronin Noel Alexander Associates 91 Gresham Street, London EC2V 7BL (Tel: 796 4322) NO AGENCIES



FASHION HOUSE

£13,000 + BENS

Worldwide fashion house is looking for a self-motivated highly organised sec to join a young creative team. This role involves liaising extensively with buyers, designers and suppliers and is the key to the successful running of the Dept. The ideal candidate requires strong organisation & communication skills, well presented and able to work under pressure with changing priorities and seek a rewarding, varied day. Salary 50/60 wpm. Tel: 01 - 823 9991

PERSONNEL SECRETARY/ADMINISTRATOR SW1

£12,500

An opportunity has arisen in our Personnel Department for a Secretary with some administrative duties. The ideal candidate would have passed at least three O'levels, including English and Mathematics, together with excellent secretarial and word processing skills.

The job content will be mainly secretarial but involves the administration of share options and medical insurance schemes. It would be an advantage to have experience of WordPerfect and Lotus 1-2-3, which are the systems used; but training on programmes will be arranged where necessary.

Other benefits include: non-contributory pension scheme, four weeks holiday, free private medical insurance, free lunches in staff restaurant, season ticket loan scheme, SAYE share option scheme after a qualifying period.

For further details please contact Maxine Gardner on 01 630 8081 (No Agencies Please)

Facilities Management P.A.

Salary Negotiable EC4

An enthusiastic, unflappable and mature PA is needed to join our established team at BDO Binder Hamlyn, a leading firm of Chartered Accountants.

Working with the Head of Property and Office Services, this diverse and challenging role offers an excellent salary package and the opportunity to progress into premises management. In addition to first class secretarial skills, including shorthand, it requires total commitment, confidence, initiative and the ability to cope under pressure - whilst still retaining a sense of humour.

BDO BINDER HAMLYN

Please contact Hilary Gibbins on 01-583 3303 for an informal discussion. (No agencies please.)

MEDIA • FINANCE • ADVERTISING • SALES • PERSONNEL • MEDIA

Quest for the Best

£17,500 plus excellent package

The young, successful and very busy Managing Director of this friendly, professional firm has asked us to help him replace his valued PA who is moving out of London.

It is a real PA's role, one to be of course, where your excellent secretarial skills and unflappable manner will be fully utilised, challenged and well rewarded.

The salary package includes a savings scheme and mortgage assistance as well as private health insurance.

If you have proven experience at senior level with good shorthand and excellent personal presentation and are looking for a move to a top company in the top job, then please ring us on 01 439 6021 or 01 482 0121 to arrange an interview.

HAZELL STATION

RECRUITMENT SPECIALISTS

MEDIA • FINANCE • ADVERTISING • SALES • PERSONNEL • MEDIA

DIVERSE PRODUCTION

This leading independent television production company, making programmes for the BBC, Channel Four and others, is looking for an experienced Personal Assistant to work for the Head of Programming.

As a PA you will need a strong character, lots of initiative and interest in the business, but no immediate expectations of development into television production.

Excellent communication skills and good typing are essential. A familiarity with word processing would be an advantage. Salary negotiable.

Write or phone Helen Hammons, Diverse Production Ltd, Gresham Street, London, W1A 6XS. Tel: 01 663 4567.

CLUTTONS

SECRETARY FURNISHED LETTINGS

Excellent opportunity for a responsible, self-motivated secretary to become fully involved in the busy Cluttons Department of a leading City Office. The ideal candidate would be a 'Property Secretary' wishing to further their career. Initial training would be given but ultimately the individual would be responsible for managing a portfolio of London Properties. Good typing and communication skills essential, clean driving licence. Salary £12,000. Please contact our sales CP 01 351 7575 CW

CHELSEA

Successful Managing Agents

require further member to join their team. The ideal candidate would be responsible for managing a portfolio of London Properties. Good typing and communication skills essential, clean driving licence. Salary £12,000. Please contact our sales CP 01 351 7575 CW

Me & My Shadow £16,000

Are you keen to be a real PA? A Senior Partner within a professional City firm needs a special PA upon whom he can rely. Your priorities will be to establish a strong rapport with his clients, deal competently on the telephone and organise his jam-packed diary. Oral and written communication skills should be impeccable, as much of the work will be on your own initiative. Confident secretarial skills of 100/60 are essential. A financial background would be useful. Age 25-40. Please telephone Esther Marsden on 01-256 5018.

HOBSTONES

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

ADVERTISING SECRETARY WITH A DIFFERENCE!

We are a top W1 Advertising Agency, seeking a top Advertising Secretary. Working in a friendly, often frantic Account Group, you will need to have a number of qualities including:

- * A terrific sense of humour!
- * The ability to stay calm when the going gets tough!
- * An enthusiastic and flexible approach to work!

If you possess all these and have excellent organisational skills and accurate typing of 60 wpm we'd certainly like to talk to you. The environment is lively yet challenging and we offer a salary of c. £11,000 plus overtime.

Contact: LIZ DAVIES
Savills & Savills Advertising Ltd
01-636 5060
(No agencies please)

CAN WE COUNT ON YOU? SECRETARY £14,000

A highly successful and prestigious firm of Chartered Accountants based in the City, now has an excellent opportunity for a confident and energetic individual.

A key member of a busy administrative team, you'll essentially be providing secretarial support to the Senior Partner and other members of his team.

With at least 2 years' experience, ideally gained in a fast-moving environment, you'll have sound secretarial skills (80/50) and audio, together with a good general standard of education. The ability to work effectively under pressure and on your own initiative is essential, as are excellent communication and presentation skills.

In return for your enthusiasm and commitment, you'll receive a great salary and benefits, plus all the scope you need to develop and progress.

Age 25+

City Office. Tel: 726 8491

ANGELA MORTIMER

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

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RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECEPTIONIST WITH A DIFFERENCE

Up to £15,000 pa

We are looking for a receptionist, with a min. of 5 yrs. relevant experience, to join a professional environment who wishes to combine WP & switchboard skills.

Working for a major Int'l U.S. law firm, you will need to answer their busy Regent board, take accurate messages, greet clients in addition to organising complicated travel arrangements, client lunches & taking on other projects.

One of the first projects you will be involved in will be assisting the Office Manager & the administration team in the implementation of a new telephone system.

You will be asked to use the firm's extensive computer system to send electronic telephone messages, update addresses & telephone lists as well as producing your own correspondence.

You must be capable of adapting quickly to new systems & procedures, be able to 'think on your feet' and be prepared to help out the office services staff. Knowledge of a foreign language would be useful. A generous benefit package is offered. If you are interested please call:

01-379 4002
Or fax your CV on 01-379 4844
(open fax code)

MEDIA CAREERS

£9,500-13,500

As a major force in Media Recruitment Christopher Keats recruits for most of the

FILM, TV, ADVERTISING, PR, MAGAZINE & BOOK

companies in Central and Greater London. If you are seeking a media career and are prepared to use your secretarial skills in return for total involvement, responsibility and prospects, call one of our Specialist Consultants on:

01-379 4164 or 379 0344

until 8pm

PERSONAL ASSISTANT

££16,000

Our Company is a diversified communications group and is amongst the world's leading multi-media publishers. The Vice President for Group Information Systems & Technology is looking for a first class Personal Assistant.

You will need a minimum of 80wpm shorthand with a good standard of typing. You must be willing to work flexible hours, often under your own supervision and have excellent organisational skills with the ability to deal with senior executives world-wide.

If you are looking for a challenging and rewarding role in an entrepreneurial environment, have at least 2 years' senior-level experience and would like to find out more details concerning this position please call Sarah Dixon on 01 822 3533.

Advertising

£15,000 W1

Catch up with colleagues over delicious free breakfast before whizzing off to plan the day with your boss... Is this the Monday morning of your dreams? It could be reality if you are 25-30 with good shorthand and WP skills - leading advertising agency's young Director needs a 'right-hand' secretary to help him run the Corporate Development side. Please call Virginia Wansick on 01-434 4512.

Crone Corkill

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

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Plaza Estates

PA/SECRETARY

required for busy Kensington Estate Agents. Friendly young, fully computerised office. Applicants should be able to work well under pressure. Very rewarding position. Salary A/E. Please call Geraldine on 01-823 9939

WANTED

Bright, social Assistant required who enjoys taking responsibility, organisation and initiative. Excellent work with financial team. Good free. Secretarial skills essential. Call Geraldine on 01-823 9939

PROFESSIONAL ELEGANT SECRETARY

is required to work for MD of a small company. Age 25-30. Knowledge of Italian, French & German would be useful. Write with CV to: Chapman Ltd, 100 Regent Street, London W1B 4EJ

01-481 4481

LA CRÈME DE LA CRÈME

01-481 4481

Information, information...

To £14,500 + benefits

One of London's foremost Management Consultancies seeks a switched-on, intuitive professional for an admin-based role. This is a fast-paced position within the consultancy and you'll be liaising constantly with a prestigious membership worldwide. In addition, you'll organise their annual conference, UK and overseas symposia and seminars. A sound secretarial/admin background means you are numerate, computer literate (Apple Mac) and at home in a pressurised responsible role. To know more about this unique operation, call 01-493 5787.

GORDON-YATES

Recruitment Consultants

Oil Baroness

To £16,500

Even-keeled, self-motivated, traditional Secretary sought to work with two charming senior executives of a small, independent Oil company. Flexibility, a sense of humour and sound organising skills are the key qualities needed as you handle normal secretarial duties and take responsibility for office admin. Very busy, pressurised environment where accuracy, numeracy and speed are of paramount importance. Spreadsheet experience very useful. Classic role within a stable and caring company. 50 wpm typing requested. Telephone 01-493 5787 for details.

GORDON-YATES

Recruitment Consultants

Elite Reception

£11,000 - £14,000

Many of our high profile, immensely successful clients in Fashion, Retail, PR, Management Consulting, Advertising, PR and the Legal and Art worlds are currently seeking polished, professional individuals to play leading roles in the smooth running of their busy Reception areas. Being the very first point of contact for many of their VIP clients, they are seeking PR-orientated "diplomats" who combine effective communication skills with poise, charm and a cheerful disposition. Some positions need typing, many don't. Both City and West End locations. For details, telephone us in confidence, on 01-493 5787.

GORDON-YATES

Recruitment Consultants

... AND ADDING
VALUE
ALL THE TIME

Successful investment is the achievement of maximum performance. To us, maximum property performance through management is an integral part of the investment process.

A measure of our success is the current value of funds under management in the UK.

Please contact John Howard for further information.

Making Property Perform.

DEBENHAM
TEWSON &
CHINNOCKS75 Davies Street, London W1A 1DZ
Telephone: 01-408 1161UK • AUSTRALIA • SAUDI ARABIA • BELGIUM • FRANCE • WEST GERMANY
NETHERLANDS • SINGAPORE • USA

THE SUNDAY TIMES

A BOLDER PERSON
FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE
Advertising Sales c£17,000

We are a company that makes things happen! We have opportunities within the Classified Advertisement Telesales Department (dealing with Four National Newspapers) for bright, tenacious, ambitious and enthusiastic people.

Previous sales experience is not essential, but your persuasive and enthusiastic manner is! You will be working in a new technology environment - so you must be able to type - at least 30 wpm, and be aged between 20 & 30.

After an intensive two week training course you will join one of the close knit specialist teams dealing with either Appointments, Motors, Property or Features advertising.

The prospects are excellent, and an unlimited bonus potential plus generous basic salary, together with 6 weeks holiday and free medical insurance are just a few of the benefits we offer.

We are the market leaders in our field -
so only the best need apply to

Pamela Hamilton on
01-782 7133, 01-782 7878 or 01-782 7759.
(OFFICE HOURS AND 10AM - 12 NOON SATURDAYS)

THE TIMES

SECRETARIAL
ASSISTANT
- PERSONNEL

Circa £10,000

~ The National Trust has worthwhile careers for secretaries interested in contributing to the important work we do preserving all that is unique about Britain.

~ Working in our busy Personnel Department, you will provide a complete secretarial and administrative support the whole Department - making full use of your WP skills, typing (possibly shorthand). Most importantly, you will have the opportunity to contribute directly to the success of an efficient and effective Personnel service within the Trust.

~ A good education, ideally to 'A' level standard with at least six months office experience preferably gained in Personnel.

~ Calm under pressure, you'll have ample scope to exercise your initiative, tact and excellent organisational and communication skills.

~ In addition to a competitive salary, you will also enjoy the friendly atmosphere of our attractive office building overlooking St James' Park.

~ Please write with full career details or telephone for further information to: Marlene Postle, Personnel Assistant, The National Trust, 36 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9AS. Tel: 01-222 9251



THE NATIONAL TRUST

Legal Eagles ...

Bring to the fore your unflappable communication skills, organisational magic and initiative when you join our client, a major force in the world of Media legalities. They are a dynamic, hugely successful concern dealing with the Film & Music industry and currently seek to recruit young, enthusiastic and motivated individuals for key roles within their organisation. Besides providing general secretarial support, you'll be involved at every stage as you handle admin tasks: greet clients; action correspondence and assist with running a department. Sound skills (80/50). Age 21-26? Fantastic W1 offices. Salary £13,000-£14,000. Call 01-493 0713.

MERRYWEATHER ADVERTISING & SELECTION

MERRYWEATHER

Squires
APPOINTMENTS

SECRETARY/PA £16,500 (Neg)
Dynamic International Venture Capital Company urgently seek an experienced Secretary to work for the Chief Executive within a hectic environment. Must have proven organisational abilities, commitment and excellent secretarial skills call Doreen Tromans on 831 1432
46 Kingsway, London WC2B 6EN.

SECRETARY/PA
FOR
EUROBOND TRADING OPERATION

A young and dynamic Senior Director needs a well-presented, articulate and outgoing Secretary/PA. This is an involving job with real benefits: £15,000 plus mortgage subsidy, BUPA, non-contributory pension, STLS, LVs, and 20 days holiday. There is a high administrative content to your role, so you'll be a good organiser - with S/H 80 plus, typing 60/70, WP Wordperfect skills, Lotus 123, and some financial background in a dealer room environment. Age 20 - 27 preferred.

Senior Secretaries

Lawrence House, 3-6 Trump Street, London EC2V 8DA

01-606 1611

(Fax: 01-600 0592)

Recruitment Consultants

ITALIAN
£15,000 + MORTGAGE

Good conversational Italian needed as secretary to a director heading up a new joint venture in the City. He is informal, lively, pleasant, and happy to delegate so you grow with them! Age 25+, English shorthand (80+) essential, excellent benefits include the mortgage worth up to £5,000 a year.

Call 377 2666 (City)
or 439 7001 (West End)

SECRETARIES PLUS

The Secretarial Consultants

BUSINESS LIKE?
£18,000

Energetic, the 'business getter', he has written books and lectures on management buyouts etc.

That's your MD! As his PA you are professional and happy to work as a valued member of a small corporate finance team at a financial firm moving to Euston shortly. Shorthand please, age 26-40.

Call 439 7001 (West End)
or 377 2666 (City)

SECRETARIES PLUS

The Secretarial Consultants

Sarah Hodge

Sarah Hodge Recruitment & Consultants

TV COMPANY

Around £15,000

Help a demanding senior VP of an American TV company sell its programmes around Europe - lots of international travel, obviously, plus your own correspondence, etc. Give him reliable back-up and you will be rewarded well by this go-ahead boss. Young ambitious people. Offer bonus + many other perks. Phone 434 0030.

SARAH HODGE LTD RAMBLERS BUILDINGS 215-217 OXFORD ST LONDON W1F TEL 434 0030
Late night opening Wednesday and Thursday 9pm to 11pm
24 HOUR ANSWERPHONE AND FAX ON 434 0030 & 434 0031

Sarah Hodge

Sarah Hodge Recruitment & Consultants

CAREER COUNSELLING

£16,000

A test PA (not just a secretary) to work alongside a woman MD in a career counselling service (large and successful). Plan her office with humour and versatility. An educated person should find this post very enjoyable. Phone 434 0030 for all the facts.

SARAH HODGE LTD RAMBLERS BUILDINGS 215-217 OXFORD ST LONDON W1F TEL 434 0030
Late night opening Wednesday and Thursday 9pm to 11pm
24 HOUR ANSWERPHONE AND FAX ON 434 0030 & 434 0031

PUBLIC RELATIONS - W1
c£14,000

PA role for top level Secretary/Assistant. Essential pre-requisites are excellent presentation and good telephone manner. Audio typing 65wpm. Suit 'O/A' Levels.

TOURISM - W6
c£9,000 - £12,000

Personal Secretary. High involvement factor in publishing/ training/ information areas. Excellent telephone manner essential. Good skills 80/60. Suit 2nd jobber.

Please Call 01-629 7262
Graduate Appointments
(Rec Cons)

GRADUATE
APPOINTMENTS

7 PRINCES STREET LONDON W1

DIRECTORS' SECRETARIES

£18,000

The newly appointed Managing Director of a well-known drinks company needs a PA.

He is responsible for marketing their products in Australasia and the Far East and will travel a considerable amount. His PA must be an excellent communicator and have the ability to co-ordinate information between London and the company's overseas offices.

A superb opportunity for a self-starter to truly create one's own role.
Speeds 100/60. Age 28/35.

01-629 9323

DIRECTORS' SECRETARIES

£18,000

Our client, a politically-minded businessman, close to many Government Ministers and officials, has numerous directorships and contacts in activities ranging from sport and design to health-care and charities.

He needs a Secretary to work as a member of a team. There really is a great deal of shorthand and typing, so fast speeds are essential - but at the same time, the work is exceptionally interesting and very varied.
Speeds 110+/65+ Age 28+

01-629 9323

Move into Marketing
£15,250

Gold is the issue - world-wide promotion is the business. Based in SW1, the dynamic Marketing Manager of the jewellery section of an international organisation needs a polished PA. Whilst providing minimal secretarial back-up, you will be organising exhibitions, liaising with the Press, designers, retailers, manufacturers and attending seminars etc. Age 22-26. Skills 80/50/wp. If the world of fashion and jewellery appeals and you have the initiative to handle your own projects, please telephone Caroline Tuck on 01-437 6032.

HOBSTONES
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTSONE OF THE UK'S LEADING MEDIA BUYING
AGENCIES REQUIRES A SECRETARY TO WORK
FOR TWO KEY BOARD DIRECTORS

Working in a friendly, often hectic environment, you will need to have a number of qualities including:-

- * A terrific sense of humour linked with a mature, unflappable personality.
- * The ability to cope under pressure and work to deadlines.
- * Excellent organisational skills, shorthand at 100wpm, and be computer friendly. Experience of an Apple Macintosh would be advantageous.

Salary c£13,000

If you feel you have all the above qualities, and are aged 24+ then please write only enclosing a CV to:

Susie Gunn
The Media Business Group
Media House, 16 Morwell Street,
London WC1B 3EY
NO AGENCIES PLEASE

Secretary to
Managing Director

Belling, Britain's leading cooker manufacturer, are looking for a capable and experienced Secretary to work for the Managing Director.

This position will give you high quality secretarial skills and initiative a chance to shine. In addition to the usual duties it demands total commitment, discretion and a flexible approach to hours and patterns of work. You will also be fully responsible for running the office in the Managing Director's absence.

It's important that you can communicate and mix well. You're numerate and ideally qualified to HNC standard (or equivalent) in a business related discipline. You should have good typing, shorthand and audio skills (RSA III), and a working knowledge of word processors, preferably including spread sheets. With 3-5 years' experience at Director level, an industrial or retailing background would be a definite advantage.

We can promise you a competitive salary and benefits. You'll receive 5 weeks' annual holiday plus an additional week after 12 months' service, a 1pm finish on Fridays, canteen and an excellent contributory pension scheme.

To apply, write to Susan Bayliss, The Personnel Department, Belling & Co Ltd, Bridgeworks, Southbury Road, Enfield, Middlesex EN1 1UE quoting ref. 050ENEL. Telephone: 01-804 1212.

Belling

SECRETARY / PA
c. £15,000

ROYMARK MAG is a new company established by ROYMARK LIMITED, the leading corporate film and video production company, to exploit opportunities in sponsored television programming. ROYMARK MAG needs an outstanding Secretary to get us up and running - FAST!

Wonderful word processing, terrific typing, speedy shorthand and, above all, amazing accuracy are just the basic qualifications. You will also need an excellent telephone manner, initiative and the ability to get on with everyone. Personality, attractive appearance, a sense of humour and the kind of social life that allows you to work long hours at short notice, complete the picture. You probably acquired these qualities at an advertising agency or public relations consultancy.

At ROYMARK MAG you will be part of a small, good-humoured, hard-working team based at the Canolot Production Studios in West London. Reporting to our MD, you will be actively involved in every aspect of the business including sponsorship opportunities, major presentations and international distribution.

Apply in writing, with full CV to:
Des Good, Managing Director, ROYMARK MAG,
Unit 224, Canolot Production Studios,
222 Kensal Road, London W10 5BN

SECRETARY
c £14,000

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

Well educated, bright, articulate and smartly presented person required with excellent fast, accurate WP and communications skills. Preferred age group 20-30 to work in our centrally located, newly appointed offices. Ability to produce high calibre work in a pressured environment essential. Contact Helen Morris, Office Administrator, AMS - Applied Management Sciences on 01-405-4571 Ex 42.

Despite the slowdown in house sales in the South, properties with a waterfront — a river, lake or the sea — continue to hold their magic for buyers. Water can increase values by up to 50 per cent

Fox & Sons, which covers the south of England, says that the 1980s unveiled a new era for leisure-based property development around the coast. Marina developments and waterfront homes were in great demand both as second homes and as short-term investments, with many reserved before a brick was laid and considerable "profit taking" as buyers sold on without moving in.

A high-contrast, black and white photograph of a large, multi-story building, possibly a government or institutional structure, surrounded by dense foliage and trees. The image is framed by a thick black border.

A dream down by the old mill stream: The Water Mill, Fittleworth, West Sussex, built in the 17th century, is for sale at £500,000

To illustrate the demand, his firm recently sold two four-bedroomed houses on the Hamble river in Hampshire, one for

£350,000, without advertising.

The British Waterways Board estimates that there are now more than 40 large waterside developments in Britain, with many more likely in the next two years. The importance of such schemes is shown by the announcement of a national conference in June, "Building by Water", sponsored by the Department of the Environment and organized by the board and the Building Centre. It is aimed at architects, developers and contractors, to show them the opportunities in this sector.

Viner Carew Waterside Homes, of Plymouth, is selling two schemes on the south coast. **Mariners Court**, overlooking Sutton harbour marina in Plymouth, has flats and maisonettes at £93,000 to £300,000. **Clippers Quay**, a newly opened waterfront development in Exeter's quayside area, has flats, maisonettes and cottages in a development by **Intercounties Securities**, who are also involved with the Plymouth scheme. All the homes have views along the River Exe, and there are private gardens along the 400ft

river frontage. Prices range from £58,000 to £142,000.

In the countryside, Shirrenden near Horsmonden in Kent, could easily come from the pages of Wodehouse, combining all the qualities of the country house – an impressive house with four reception rooms, six bedrooms and a staff flat, a lodge at the entrance gates, and formal gardens separated by a ha-ha from the parkland which slopes down to a lake.

Set in 114 acres of park and woodland, this is the traditional well-estate *à la* demand, and

Staff's Chester office, is £400,000. If none of these waterside properties is the answer, the ultimate option is living on the water. An unusual houseboat for sale is Waterdog, an 89ft former coal barge now settled at Clementhorpe Moorings, York, which used to be the York Co-op coal wharf. The barge was converted in 1979, and has a 26ft living-room, dining area in the old wheelhouse, and three bedrooms. Its owner, Ronnie Smith, is asking £75,000. (Details: 0904 622728.)

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COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

By Christopher Warman

Best place for business

The retail sector of the property market, suffering from the economic squeeze in recent months, is under scrutiny, but retailers' troubles should not overshadow the underlying strength or the growth record in retail spending, Lee Donaldson Associates, a firm of economists, says in a new bulletin.

LDA suggests that the difficulties stem more from pressures on costs and margins than from any decline in volume of retail spending, which has shown persistent buoyancy.

An important dimension of retail growth, the bulletin says, is the regional variations in spending trends, important considerations in framing regional guidance and preparing local shopping plans.

In view of this, it is appropriate that the property consultant Chesterton has produced what it claims is Britain's first chart of high-street spending patterns, based on 119 cities and towns, and providing comparative information on the main retail categories including food, clothing, footwear, furniture, electrical and DIY. It

At last, a survey has assessed high-street shopping trends throughout the country

shows that Oxford Street, London, probably Europe's busiest shopping thoroughfare, has one of the liveliest trading positions. Spending on footwear is 12 per cent above average, and on clothing 9 per cent above average. Spending on furniture and DIY is 11 per cent below average.

The chart throws up some odd comparisons. Orpington, south London, and Maidstone, Kent, seem to have a population of DIY enthusiasts, with spending 28 per cent above average, while the residents of Durham, Glasgow and Dundee clearly do not care for such pastimes, spending 17 per cent, 22 per cent and 20 per cent below average respectively.

In Southport, Merseyside, people spend an estimated 27 per cent above average on furniture, and in Cumbria, Carlisle is 30 per cent below the national norm.

The best-dressed people — in terms of spending on clothes, at least — are in Guildford, Surrey,

(20 per cent above average) and High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire (19 per cent higher), which suggests that Plymouth shoppers may look a little dowdy, spending the least — 15 per cent below the average.

Paul Stansfield, Chesterton's retail business head, says the map, the first of its kind, provided an idea of overall spending potential. Rosemary Fennan, director of research at Chesterton, says the survey probably raised more questions than it answered. "Is spending in one town lower than average because the spend potential does not exist, or because a particular category of goods is under-represented in terms of outlets," she adds. The firm aims to do research to answer those questions.

The information is, nevertheless, important because, as Lee Donaldson Associates says, although national figures for retail sales are regularly reported, data

on regional trends are less readily available. The main source on regional trends is the Central Statistical Office's "Family Expenditure Survey", which has its limitations but provides a sound basis for assessing comparative regional trends.

The latest survey, published in February, showed that retail spending had an average annual growth in Britain of 1.27 per cent over the period 1970-1988 and of about 2.73 per cent from 1980-1988. It is estimated that for 1989 there was volume growth of 2 per cent over 1988.

Regional disparities on durable goods are illustrated in the survey by estimating the length of time each region needs to bring its average spending per head to levels current in London and the South-East.

The South-West and East Anglia are about three years behind, and Scotland and Northern Ireland, gaining ground after recent growth, are now four to five years behind. The North-West is about seven years behind, Yorkshire and Humberside and the North eight to 10 years behind.

PSA wins its first contract

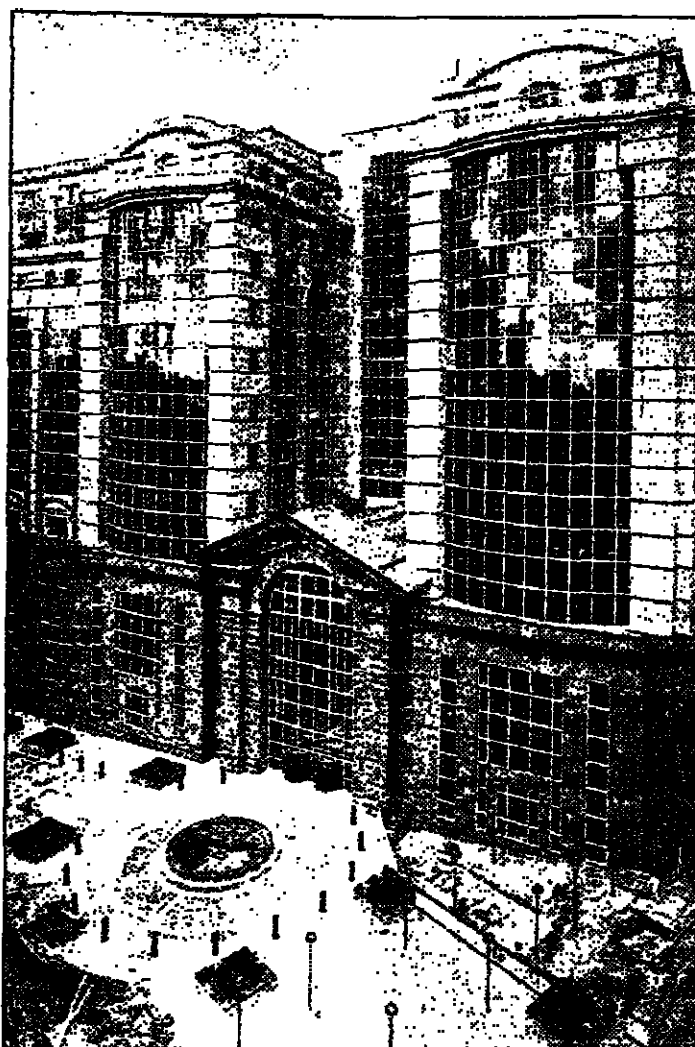
PSA SERVICES, created on April 1, 1990, as the commercial successor to the Government's Property Services Agency, has been awarded its first big project — project manager and designer of a £23 million office block at the Queen's Dock site in Liverpool. The block will house the Customs Department's VAT control directorate, and the project will be managed by PSA Building Management.

Patrick Brown, PSA Services chief executive, says it was gratifying that the north-west

region of the newly formed PSA Building Management had been selected by a leading client to carry out such a project. PSA Building Management North-West was asked by Customs to appraise 10 sites in Liverpool

for the possible relocation of its VAT control directorate, and three sites were shortlisted, including the Queen's Dock.

Under the scheme to split up the PSA, the Government's landlord and some other functions have been transferred to Property Holdings within the Department of the Environment. PSA Building Management is one of four operational divisions within PSA Services, which the Government intends to privatize, possibly by autumn 1992.



Lloyd Thompson plc, an insurance broker, has taken the entire 46,500 sq ft second floor of Beaufort House, St Botolph's Street, London EC3. The transaction represents one of the largest single floor lettings and means that only 69,000 sq ft of a total of 380,000 sq ft remains available, following the recent letting of 22,000 sq ft on the first floor to Credit Suisse, Buckmaster & Moore. The letting agents for this Mountleigh and Norwich Union development were Baker Harris Saunders and Wright Oliphant.

IN THE MARKET

Time for big spending

■ The developer UK Land plc has begun a planned "spending spree" in what it describes as an ideal market for property traders. It has made two acquisitions worth £2.6 million in a campaign which includes offers for seven privately owned property companies with a value of more than £20 million. The first two buys are Globe Land, with residential and commercial properties, in south-east London, for £1.7m, and a 30,000sq ft unit on the Parkway Industrial Estate for £900,000.

■ Banco de Sabadell, the Catalan-based international Spanish bank, which purchased the listed Lutyns building 120 Pall Mall, London SW1, from Trafalgar Developments last year, has successfully let surplus offices in the building through Richard Saunders & Partners. It has sublet 1,650 sq ft on the third floor to the Automobile Association at around £57.50 per sq ft. The 1,900sq ft second floor has been let to Ariswright Enterprise Ltd at a rent of £104,500 a year.

■ West of England Investments Ltd and Wilton Securities are soon to start construction of their office scheme, in Drakes Way, Swindon, Wiltshire, of nine low-rise office buildings totalling 413,000sq ft, and the only development of its kind in central Swindon planned over the next two years. Mallard House will be the largest building, with 128,000sq ft, and the others range from 16,350-76,150sq ft. Knight Frank & Rutley and Cairns Barfoot, advising on the development, are the letting agents.

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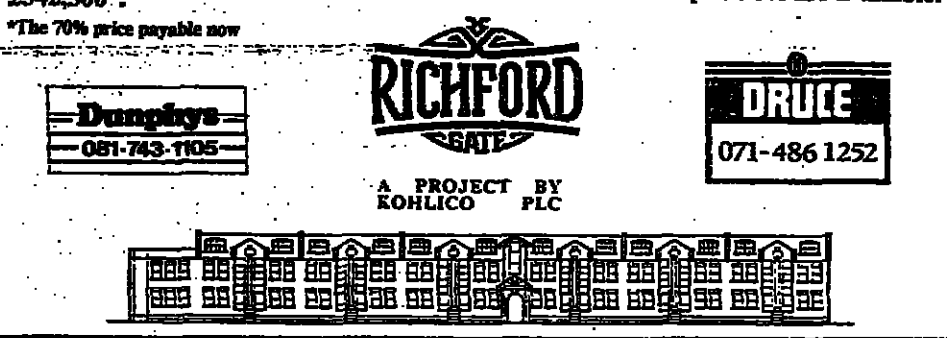
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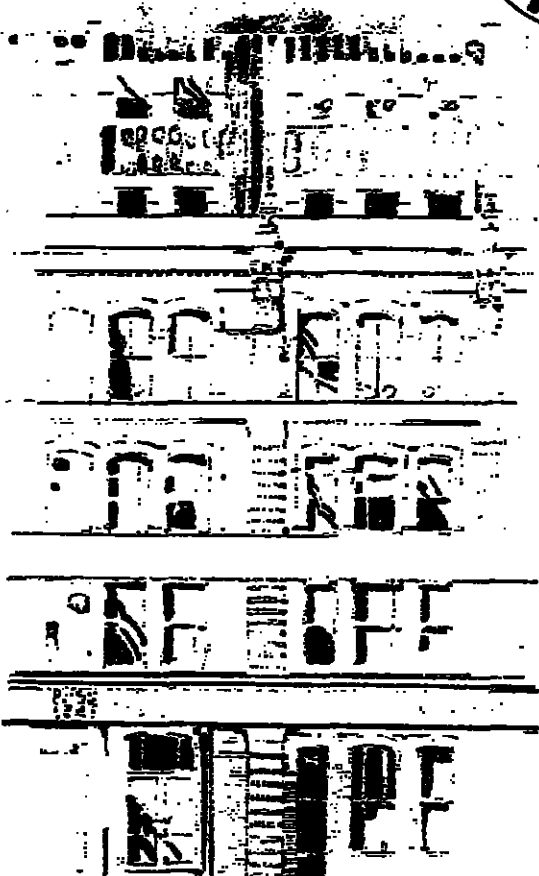
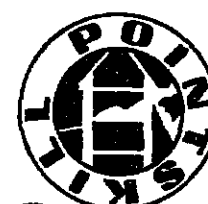
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Queen's Bench Divisional Court

Law Report April 11 1990

Territorial limit of ban on oral snuff

Regina v Secretary of State for Health, Ex parte United States Tobacco International Inc

Before Lord Justice Mustill and Mr Justice Schiemann
[Judgment April 10]

The Oral Snuff (Safety) Regulations (SI 1989 No 2347) did not prohibit the applicant tobacco company from offering or agreeing to supply oral snuff to persons outside the United Kingdom or from possessing or exposing such snuff for that purpose.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held in ordering a declaration in favour of the applicants, United States Tobacco International Inc, on a preliminary issue in their application for judicial review of the 1989 Regulations.

Regulation 2 of the 1989 Regulations provided that "no person shall supply, offer to supply, agree to supply, expose for supply or possess for supply any oral snuff."

Mr Michael Beloff, QC, Mr David Pannick and Mr Stuart Isaacs for US Tobacco International; Mr David Latham, QC

and Mr Nigel Fleming for the Health Secretary.

LORD JUSTICE MUSTILL, delivering the judgment of the court, said the applicants were a company incorporated in the United States which manufactured, packaged and sold oral snuff within the United Kingdom and exported it to dealers abroad.

The introduction of the regulations would seriously affect the applicants' business and there was evidence that if the regulations remained in force the company would need to close its European manufacturing and packaging factory at East Kilbride, near Glasgow.

The applicants had launched a full-scale attack on the regulations through judicial review, claiming, *inter alia*, that they were *ultra vires* and contravened the applicants' legitimate expectations; that the secretary of state had misdirected himself in the exercise of his powers; and that the regulations contravened the Treaty of Rome.

The secretary of state contended, while the applicants denied, that the regulations applied not only to products for sale in the United Kingdom but

also to those manufactured here wherever destined.

The court had agreed to determine that preliminary issue. It had also to decide whether if the applicants were right about the territorial scope of the regulations, the court should exercise its discretion to grant the relief claimed.

The present case was quite different from *Attorney General v Able* ([1984] 1 QB 795) where Mr Justice Woolf had given general guidance without making a declaration. It was only part of a dispute which would continue whatever the decision on the preliminary issue.

In his Lordship's judgment the court should either decide the issue and declare upon it, or abstain altogether.

However, he had serious reservations about granting a declaration or an injunction, claiming, *inter alia*, that they were *ultra vires* and contravened the applicants' legitimate expectations; that the secretary of state had misdirected himself in the exercise of his powers; and that the regulations contravened the Treaty of Rome.

Nonetheless, the present case was not in the same category as the *Imperial Tobacco* case. An

action was already afoot. The applicants were not seeking to discover whether they could properly build a factory and export its products. They already did so.

The case for the secretary of state was simple. The regulations had been made at East Kilbride, which they possessed because they intended to supply them. Accordingly they fell foul of the regulations.

The applicants argued that it was a matter of interpretation whether the subject matter of the regulations was confined to the United Kingdom.

It would require strong reasons to suppose that the same word had a radically different meaning when it was used elsewhere in the same statutory provisions. In principle the argument for the applicants was well founded.

Solicitors: Taylor Joyson Garton; Solicitor, DHSS.

Regina v Bath

Before Lord Lane, Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice Roch and Mr Justice Judge

[Judgment April 9]

If a judge, unwisely, referred in public outside court to a case which he was currently trying and a report about his comments appeared in a newspaper, if he disagreed with the contents of the report it was incumbent upon him to make it plain, first, that he did so disagree and, second, what the inaccuracies in the report were, so that any suspicion of bias might be removed.

The Court of Appeal so stated when applying the proviso to section 2 of the Criminal Appeal Act 1968 and dismissing the appeal of Rajinder Singh Bath against convictions on March 9, 1989 in the Central Criminal Court (James Miskin, QC, Recorder of London, and a jury) of murder and manslaughter, on which the appellant was sentenced to life imprisonment, with a minimum recommendation of 30 years, and ten years imprisonment concurrent to appeal against a conviction of unlawful wounding was allowed.

Mr Michael Self, QC and Mr Tariq Rafique, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the appellant; Miss Jean Southwood, QC, and Mr Charles Tilling for the Crown.

THE LORD CHIEF JUSTICE said that the facts of the case were simple. The appellant, Rajinder Singh Bath, was charged with the murder of a Sikh. The appellant was a Sikh. The appellant was a Sikh. The appellant was a Sikh.

Another Sikh religious sect held regular Wednesday meetings at a school in Southall, at which their leader, Maharaj Gurmehar Singh, presided. The appellant was a member of this sect. The appellant was a member of this sect. The appellant was a member of this sect.

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Mr Self had drawn their article to the recorder's attention and submitted that the trial should be aborted and should start again before a fresh tribunal.

The submission was not made on the basis that the jury might be prejudiced but on the basis that the remarks, if true, indicated bias on the part of the recorder.

The recorder rejected the application, saying "The report is, as usual, inaccurate" and commenting that he knew that 99.9 per cent of the Indian population worked hard and honestly and that, as with every other sect, there was a tiny proportion who behaved badly from time to time, whether the accused had behaved badly was a matter for the jury.

If any demonstration was required, that demonstration was the extreme words of any judge making remarks outside court in public about a case which he was currently engaged in trying.

Their Lordships had been greatly troubled about that aspect of the case. That any public comment about a current case should have been made was bad enough, but that it should have been made in a case which concerned a respected and respectable ethnic minority, and, furthermore, concerned deeply felt religious animosities within that minority, was doubly deplorable.

The law on the matter had been extensively researched by Mr Self, and their Lordships expressed their appreciation of the two principle cases to which he drew attention were *Eckersley v Mersey Docks and Harbour Board* ([1984] 2 QB 667) and *Metropolitan Properties v Lannon* ([1969] QB 577, 599) in which Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, made the legal situation clear.

He said: "There must be circumstances from which a reasonable man would think it likely or probable that the justice, or chairman, as the case may be, would, or did, favour one side unfairly at the expense of the other."

"The court will not inquire whether he did, in fact, favour one side unfairly. Suffice it that reasonable people might think he did."

"The reason is plain enough. Justice must be rooted in confidence and confidence is destroyed when right-minded people go away thinking 'The judge was biased'."

The important matter was, therefore, not what the appellant might think about the judge, but the appearance, as it presented itself to the objective observer.

Unfortunately, the recorder did not, in his remarks in court, particularise the nature of the misapprehension about which he was complaining. Their Lordships had to judge on the basis of what he said in his remarks in court.

If a judge was unwise enough, and their Lordships hoped that in future no judge would be so unwise as to make such a statement, it was incumbent upon him to make it plain, first, that he did so disagree and second, what the inaccuracies in the report were so that any suspicion of bias could be removed.

In the absence of such a full explanation in open court in the instant case, their Lordships were driven to the conclusion that the appearance of bias had not been removed.

However, that was not the end of the matter. In their Lordships' judgment, in view of the agreed facts and the evidence, and the matter being tried before a fresh jury, the verdict would inevitably have been the same.

The proviso to section 2 of the Criminal Appeal Act 1968 would be applied and the appeal against the convictions of murder and manslaughter would be dismissed. For other reasons, the conviction of unlawful wounding would be quashed.

Solicitors: CPS, Central Courts.

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Immediacy of public order violence relevant

Regina v Horseferry Road Justices, Ex Parte Stadian

Before Lord Justice Watkins, Lord Justice Stuart-Smith and Mr Justice Roch

[Judgment April 9]

The words "such violence" in section 4(1)(b) of the Public Order Act 1986 mean "immediate unlawful violence". That did not mean instantaneous violence. A relatively short time interval might elapse between the act which was threatening, abusive or insulting and the unlawful violence.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held in rejecting an application for an order of certiorari quashing the refusal by Mr Eric Crowther, Metropolitan Stipendiary Magistrate at Horseferry Road, on June 27, 1989 to issue a summons against Penguin Viking Books Ltd for alleged breach of section 4(1) of the 1986 Act by distributing *The Satanic Verses* by Salman Rushdie.

Section 4 of the Public Order Act 1986 provides: "(1) A person is guilty of an offence if he - (a) uses towards another person threatening, abusive or insulting words or behaviour, (b) distributes or displays to

another person any writing, sign or other visible representation which is threatening, abusive or insulting, with intent to cause that person to believe that immediate unlawful violence will be used against him or another by any person, or to provoke the immediate use of unlawful violence by that person or another, or whereby that person is likely to believe that such violence will be used or it is likely that such violence will be provoked."

Mr Geoffrey Nice for the applicant; Mr Anthony Lester and Mr David Pannick for Penguin Viking; Mr Geoffrey Robertson, QC, Mr Edward Fitzgerald and Mr Kevin Starmen for *The Satanic Verses*; Mr David Paget as *amicus curiae*.

LORD JUSTICE WATKINS, giving the judgment of the court, said there were three reasons why the court had reached the decision it did about the interpretation of the 1986 Act.

The first was the context in which section 4(1) appeared in the Act. It appeared in the first part together with the creation of new offences of riot, violent disorder, affray and harassment, alarm and distress.

Second, it was not possible to construe the words "such violence" and ignore the words "the immediate use" earlier in section 4(1)(b).

Third, their Lordships were construing a penal statute. It was an elementary rule that where the words were ambiguous, the meaning which limited the

scope of the offence thus construed. It would be strange indeed, if where it could be shown that a defendant had an intent to provoke unlawful violence by the use of words, the court required the prosecution to establish an intent to provoke the immediate use of unlawful violence, but in a situation where a defendant had no such intent, but nevertheless it was likely that violence would be provoked, there was no requirement that such violence be immediate.

It seemed to their Lordships that the word "immediate" did not mean "instantaneous"; it was a relatively short time interval might elapse between the act which was threatening, abusive or insulting and the unlawful violence.

"Immediate" connoted proximity in time and in causation; that it was likely that violence would result within a relatively short period of time and without any other intervening occurrence.

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Undue delay within three-month limit

Regina v Swale Borough Council, Ex parte Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

Before Mr Justice Simon Brown

[Judgment February 3]

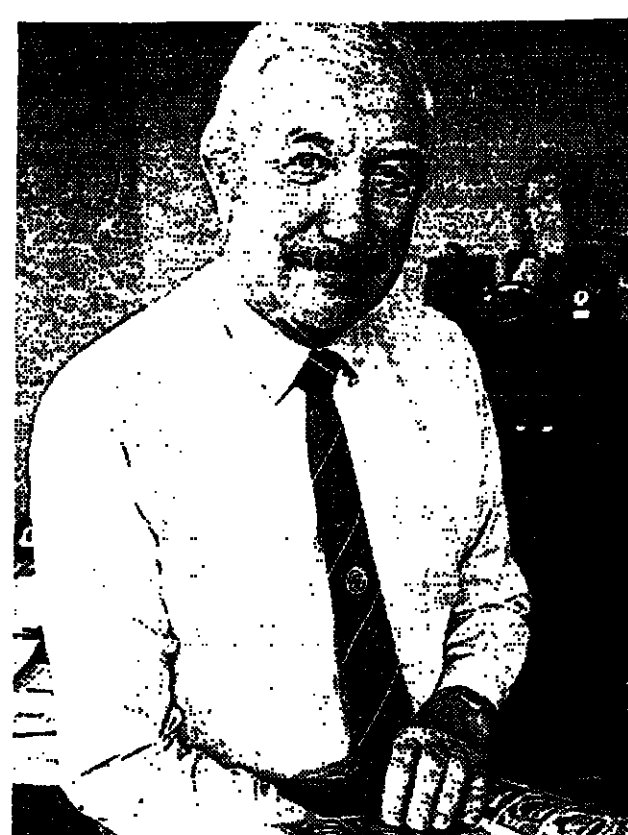
A finding, on an *inter partes* hearing, that an application for leave to apply for judicial review made within three months of the grounds of application arising was made promptly for the purposes of Order 53, rule 4 of the Rules of the Supreme Court, did not rule out the possibility of a court finding that there had been undue delay in making the application and exercising

A trip to Hillsborough revives some unashamedly partial memories of great footballing days for Rex Bellamy

Sheffield hoping to revive civic double act



Family lesson: Frogratt and his grandson, Jonathon



Convert: Dooley in his office at Bramall Lane

don't see that as much now."

After Robinson's departure Wednesday still had three Englishmen inside forwards — Froggatt, Jack Seck and the ball-playing Albert Quizzal — vying for places in the club team. "It must have been me that made them look good players," Dooley jokes. "Alberber and Redfern made the goals and Jack and I put it in the back of the net."

The era from Catlin and Robinson to Dooley and Quizzal was a good time to be watching Wednesday, days, even when the lads were miles and we had to walk three miles to what used to be known as Owterton: thus Wednesday's nickname, the Owls. And in those days the Kop was open to all weathers (the Boer War battle of Spion Kop gave a name to many a hillcock in England's developing football stadiums).

Like most games, football was more fun in the days when one watched with young eyes or dashed about on young legs, occasionally pocketing some "boot money." But the taste is still there, if diluted. And it suddenly struck me, when briefly back at Hillsborough after three years, that I still had a mental block about bacon.

Confident build-up bolsters Whitaker

THE new 65R lightweight
Triumph, owned by Aus-
tralian rider Tim
to break the record for the
to the maul-like Hong Kong
Manila Corum China Sea
which starts tomorrow.

the 61-mile race of the
yachts forming an Australian
team in the 61-sport fleet
Corum China Sea race series
has had little luck since arriv-
ing in Hong Kong.

the 61-mile race Farr design
yacht headed her keel w-
she grounded at low tide
Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club
managed. She then badly
singed her bow and the racing
committee said the boat had
change mechanism failed w-
motorizing into her berth af-
ter training sail.

In the 64n-mile race the
lost after the series the first
last after being becalmed
more than an hour on
starting line. But in fair breeze
two around a 30n-mile
completing course and showed
true potential by finish-
ing ahead of the next year
the Australian Frers 50 (N
Ryan) and placing fifth
the record of 79hr 23min
set in 1984, by American Mar-
Green's maxi Nirvana.

RESULTS: Second race, 65R
offshore rule, 62.1 nautical miles, 1. Cyclone
2. 65R 3. 65R 4. 65R 5. 65R 6. 65R 7. 65R 8. 65R 9. 65R 10. 65R 11. 65R 12. 65R 13. 65R 14. 65R 15. 65R 16. 65R 17. 65R 18. 65R 19. 65R 20. 65R 21. 65R 22. 65R 23. 65R 24. 65R 25. 65R 26. 65R 27. 65R 28. 65R 29. 65R 30. 65R 31. 65R 32. 65R 33. 65R 34. 65R 35. 65R 36. 65R 37. 65R 38. 65R 39. 65R 40. 65R 41. 65R 42. 65R 43. 65R 44. 65R 45. 65R 46. 65R 47. 65R 48. 65R 49. 65R 50. 65R 51. 65R 52. 65R 53. 65R 54. 65R 55. 65R 56. 65R 57. 65R 58. 65R 59. 65R 60. 65R 61. 65R 62. 65R 63. 65R 64. 65R 65. 65R 66. 65R 67. 65R 68. 65R 69. 65R 70. 65R 71. 65R 72. 65R 73. 65R 74. 65R 75. 65R 76. 65R 77. 65R 78. 65R 79. 65R 80. 65R 81. 65R 82. 65R 83. 65R 84. 65R 85. 65R 86. 65R 87. 65R 88. 65R 89. 65R 90. 65R 91. 65R 92. 65R 93. 65R 94. 65R 95. 65R 96. 65R 97. 65R 98. 65R 99. 65R 100. 65R 101. 65R 102. 65R 103. 65R 104. 65R 105. 65R 106. 65R 107. 65R 108. 65R 109. 65R 110. 65R 111. 65R 112. 65R 113. 65R 114. 65R 115. 65R 116. 65R 117. 65R 118. 65R 119. 65R 120. 65R 121. 65R 122. 65R 123. 65R 124. 65R 125. 65R 126. 65R 127. 65R 128. 65R 129. 65R 130. 65R 131. 65R 132. 65R 133. 65R 134. 65R 135. 65R 136. 65R 137. 65R 138. 65R 139. 65R 140. 65R 141. 65R 142. 65R 143. 65R 144. 65R 145. 65R 146. 65R 147. 65R 148. 65R 149. 65R 150. 65R 151. 65R 152. 65R 153. 65R 154. 65R 155. 65R 156. 65R 157. 65R 158. 65R 159. 65R 160. 65R 161. 65R 162. 65R 163. 65R 164. 65R 165. 65R 166. 65R 167. 65R 168. 65R 169. 65R 170. 65R 171. 65R 172. 65R 173. 65R 174. 65R 175. 65R 176. 65R 177. 65R 178. 65R 179. 65R 180. 65R 181. 65R 182. 65R 183. 65R 184. 65R 185. 65R 186. 65R 187. 65R 188. 65R 189. 65R 190. 65R 191. 65R 192. 65R 193. 65R 194. 65R 195. 65R 196. 65R 197. 65R 198. 65R 199. 65R 200. 65R 201. 65R 202. 65R 203. 65R 204. 65R 205. 65R 206. 65R 207. 65R 208. 65R 209. 65R 210. 65R 211. 65R 212. 65R 213. 65R 214. 65R 215. 65R 216. 65R 217. 65R 218. 65R 219. 65R 220. 65R 221. 65R 222. 65R 223. 65R 224. 65R 225. 65R 226. 65R 227. 65R 228. 65R 229. 65R 230. 65R 231. 65R 232. 65R 233. 65R 234. 65R 235. 65R 236. 65R 237. 65R 238. 65R 239. 65R 240. 65R 241. 65R 242. 65R 243. 65R 244. 65R 245. 65R 246. 65R 247. 65R 248. 65R 249. 65R 250. 65R 251. 65R 252. 65R 253. 65R 254. 65R 255. 65R 256. 65R 257. 65R 258. 65R 259. 65R 260. 65R 261. 65R 262. 65R 263. 65R 264. 65R 265. 65R 266. 65R 267. 65R 268. 65R 269. 65R 270. 65R 271. 65R 272. 65R 273. 65R 274. 65R 275. 65R 276. 65R 277. 65R 278. 65R 279. 65R 280. 65R 281. 65R 282. 65R 283. 65R 284. 65R 285. 65R 286. 65R 287. 65R 288. 65R 289. 65R 290. 65R 291. 65R 292. 65R 293. 65R 294. 65R 295. 65R 296. 65R 297. 65R 298. 65R 299. 65R 300. 65R 301. 65R 302. 65R 303. 65R 304. 65R 305. 65R 306. 65R 307. 65R 308. 65R 309. 65R 310. 65R 311. 65R 312. 65R 313. 65R 314. 65R 315. 65R 316. 65R 317. 65R 318. 65R 319. 65R 320. 65R 321. 65R 322. 65R 323. 65R 324. 65R 325. 65R 326. 65R 327. 65R 328. 65R 329. 65R 330. 65R 331. 65R 332. 65R 333. 65R 334. 65R 335. 65R 336. 65R 337. 65R 338. 65R 339. 65R 340. 65R 341. 65R 342. 65R 343. 65R 344. 65R 345. 65R 346. 65R 347. 65R 348. 65R 349. 65R 350. 65R 351. 65R 352. 65R 353. 65R 354. 65R 355. 65R 356. 65R 357. 65R 358. 65R 359. 65R 360. 65R 361. 65R 362. 65R 363. 65R 364. 65R 365. 65R 366. 65R 367. 65R 368. 65R 369. 65R 370. 65R 371. 65R 372. 65R 373. 65R 374. 65R 375. 65R 376. 65R 377. 65R 378. 65R 379. 65R 380. 65R 381. 65R 382. 65R 383. 65R 384. 65R 385. 65R 386. 65R 387. 65R 388. 65R 389. 65R 390. 65R 391. 65R 392. 65R 393. 65R 394. 65R 395. 65R 396. 65R 397. 65R 398. 65R 399. 65R 400. 65R 401. 65R 402. 65R 403. 65R 404. 65R 405. 65R 406. 65R 407. 65R 408. 65R 409. 65R 410. 65R 411. 65R 412. 65R 413. 65R 414. 65R 415. 65R 416. 65R 417. 65R 418. 65R 419. 65R 420. 65R 421. 65R 422. 65R 423. 65R 424. 65R 425. 65R 426. 65R 427. 65R 428.

VOLLEYBALL

No Easter break for England

ENGLAND seniors will now have the luxury of an Easter break. They face Switzerland in three challenge matches in London in preparation for the European championship which opens the Spring Cup, in Israel later this month.

Jefferson Williams, the English national coach, has added four players to the squad which will play Scotland in Glasgow in the British Volleyball Federation championships in Glasgow at the end of last month.

Hay and McKenzie have been brought in from Team Mizuno (Mizuno is the Japanese manufacturer) and also included are Roberts (M/G), Lees and Hunter (Hilton/Woods).

Jones (Cumbria), who won his first senior caps during the 1977-78 season, will play against juniors in Belgium this weekend. There is a doubt over Dunn (Team Mizuno Malory), who has his back against Scotland.

"We weren't well prepared for the BVF Championships," Williams said yesterday. "This weekend is all about making the most of the opportunity to get some international experience. It's all about Scotland's efforts against Scotland and we have to improve on that."

Williams hinted that the prospects for later in the year were a chance of finishing in the top eight for the first time, would not differ much from the 12 that travelled to Glasgow.

Scotland's first match against the Swiss is at Crofton Leisure Centre, Brodley, on Saturday (3pm). The other matches are at Glasgow at Brodley (L), Aclon (L), Glasgow (L), Malory (L) and Glasgow S.C. (L) on Monday.

1

Graham dancing towards a title bout with Duran

THE "Who needs him Society", the aim of which is to stay clear of clever, clever types like Chris Eubank, Johnny Nelson and Herol Graham, may have to change its rules and regulations so fast if Graham is concerned.

It is not that the Graham has changed his "limbo dancing" style of boxing to one more acceptable to the founder member of the society, Mickey Duff, Britain's leading matchmaker, but that the 30-year-old Sheffield middleweight could become the most sought after boxer in the country.

Changes at the top of the division's world rankings could make this the best year of Graham's 12-year career.

Because Roberto Duran has been stripped of the World Boxing Council title, and two English middleweights, Michael Watson and Nigel Benn are

involved in World Boxing Association and World Boxing Organisation title bouts, the way looks clear for Graham to meet the great Panamanian in a multi-million dollar match for the vacant title.

Duff told a press conference called to publicise Graham's warm-up against Ismael Negron, of Puerto Rico, at De Montfort today: "Looking at the rankings, right next in line is Herol Graham. I'm sure that if all goes well for him this week he'll be getting a call to say he's about to get a shot at the title. I'll be very surprised if he doesn't. His unique fight becomes very important to him in these circumstances."

When the founder of the "Who needs him Society" makes a statement like this Graham can feel confident that things are looking up. If all goes

well Britain could have three world middleweight champions by the end of the summer, in Watson, Benn and Graham. In the lucrative unification contests Graham would be favourite to come out on top.

Negron should not pose too many problems for the British champion. The Puerto Rican, who has lost 13 of his 21 contests, was inactive for almost two years before November 1989. He was stopped in the 11th round in his last bout for the USBA title against Reggie Johnson.

But Graham is not one to take opponents lightly. He will be well prepared to under the direction of his trainer, Brendan Ingle. Once they have seen what Negron has to offer Graham will go to work and should stop him quickly. "I've been training hard and I'm in good shape."

CYCLING

Boardman has little time to relax

By Peter Bryson

Boardman, to fifth place overall, but on a disastrous penultimate stage, he slumped to 29th position last evening. Wayne Randle, climbed to eighth. Britain's best finisher.

Boardman, winner of eight national road and track titles last year, has secured major international stage race next month with Britain's team in the East Berlin-Prague-Warsaw event.

The team has still to be finalised but Simon Lillistone and Mark Gornall are among those pencilled in.

The British Cycling Federation were concerned that political changes in eastern Europe might result in the race being cancelled, but they learned yesterday that the marathon will take place although reduced to ten days.

A Macew Stephens, aged 20, the Bushey, Hertfordshire, amateur based in France, won his first classic road race, the 110-mile Grand Prix Boulogne, near Paris, on Sunday, leaving away from eight miles from the end to finish one minute ahead of the field.

BOXING

Dancing out with

towards Duran

YACHTING

Australian threat to race record

Hong Kong

The new 65ft lightweight, Brindabella, owned by Australian George Snow, has the speed to break the record for the 650 nautical-mile Hong Kong to Manila or to the China Sea race which starts tomorrow.

Brindabella, one of two yachts forming an Australian team in the 61-boat fleet for the Corum China Sea Race series, is expected to stick since arriving in Hong Kong.

First, the Bruce Pratt designed yacht damaged her keel when she grounded at low tide in Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club's lagoon. The 65-year-old Snow, aged her bow when she rammed a concrete dock after her gear-change mechanism failed while motoring into her berth after a training sail.

When the 65-mile race which opened the series, she finished last after being becalmed for more than an hour on the starting line. But in fair breeze in the second race, she showed her true potential by finishing 16min ahead of the next yacht, the Australian Frets 50 (Max Ryan) and placing fifth on completion.

The record of 79hr 23min was set in 1984, by American Marvin Green's max Nirvana.

RESULTS: Second race: International offshore race, 1st, Cyclone (Austria), 22hr 50min; 2nd, Nirvana (USA), 23hr 01min; 3rd, Corum (P Brand, England), 23hr 51min; 4th, Brindabella (G Snow, Aus), 23hr 58min; 5th, Frets 50 (M Ryan, Aus), 24hr 16min; 6th, Brindabella (G Snow, Aus), 24hr 31hr 18min; 7th, Tanager (Hong Kong), 24hr 35min; 8th, Frets 40 (Austria), 24hr 40min; 9th, Brindabella (G Snow, Aus), 24hr 40min; 10th, Frets 40 (Austria), 24hr 40min; 11th, Frets 40 (Austria), 24hr 40min; 12th, Frets 40 (Austria), 24hr 40min; 13th, Frets 40 (Austria), 24hr 40min; 14th, Frets 40 (Austria), 24hr 40min; 15th, Frets 40 (Austria), 24hr 40min; 16th, Frets 40 (Austria), 24hr 40min; 17th, Frets 40 (Austria), 24hr 40min; 18th, Frets 40 (Austria), 24hr 40min; 19th, Frets 40 (Austria), 24hr 40min; 20th, Frets 40 (Austria), 24hr 40min; 21st, Frets 40 (Austria), 24hr 40min; 22nd, Frets 40 (Austria), 24hr 40min; 23rd, Frets 40 (Austria), 24hr 40min; 24th, Frets 40 (Austria), 24hr 40min; 25th, Frets 40 (Austria), 24hr 40min; 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MODERN PENTATHLON

Whyte endures rough ride in show jumping

WHEN show jumping was confined to the last sport in modern pentathlon a couple of years ago, anxiety was expressed over the punishment riders might inflict on the horses they had picked as vital points were being lost. No suffering could compare to that experienced by Greg Whyte, of Britain, at Alshott on Monday.

Whyte lost 793 points (out of 1,100), of which 685 were for jumping faults and 108 for time penalties. It dropped him from his overnight third position in this seven-nation international to 26th and pushed Britain down from second place to final fourth.

With Shawn Morgan losing 3771 points and slipping from 31st to seventeenth, it was left to Dominic Mahony to salvage something. The Olympic bronze team medal winner lost 1,000 points, but his scores, respective only 60 points

for the equal second-best ride and a final fifth place.

Had Mahony fenced to his normal ability on the opening day he would have challenged the eventual overall winner, Pavel Oleszinski, a former Pole, competing for West Germany.

His riding apart, Whyte fenced, swam (3min 19.4sec) and shot (187.7) well, but he was not swimming (2:13.1) and running were comfort for the selectors.

RESULTS: Fencing: 1. L. Madsen (Den), 1,070; 2nd E. Patauna (Pol), 1,050; 3rd G. Whyte (GB), 1,035; 4th J. Oleszinski (Pol), 1,030; 5th D. Mahony (GB), 1,025; 6th D. Patauna (Pol), 1,020; 7th S. Morgan (GB), 722; 2nd G. Whyte (GB), 715; 3rd P. Oleszinski (Pol), 710; 4th P. Oleszinski (Pol), 705; 5th S. Morgan (GB), 695; 6th D. Mahony (GB), 690; 7th J. Oleszinski (Pol), 685; 8th G. Whyte (GB), 680; 9th D. Patauna (Pol), 675; 10th S. Morgan (GB), 670; 11th D. Mahony (GB), 665; 12th J. Oleszinski (Pol), 660; 13th G. Whyte (GB), 655; 14th D. Patauna (Pol), 650; 15th S. Morgan (GB), 645; 16th D. Mahony (GB), 640; 17th J. Oleszinski (Pol), 635; 18th G. Whyte (GB), 630; 19th D. Patauna (Pol), 625; 20th S. Morgan (GB), 620; 21st D. Mahony (GB), 615; 22nd J. Oleszinski (Pol), 610; 23rd G. Whyte (GB), 605; 24th D. Patauna (Pol), 600; 25th S. Morgan (GB), 595; 26th D. Mahony (GB), 590; 27th J. Oleszinski (Pol), 585; 28th G. Whyte (GB), 580; 29th D. Patauna (Pol), 575; 30th S. Morgan (GB), 570; 31st D. Mahony (GB), 565; 32nd J. Oleszinski (Pol), 560; 33rd G. Whyte (GB), 555; 34th D. Patauna (Pol), 550; 35th S. Morgan (GB), 545; 36th D. Mahony (GB), 540; 37th J. Oleszinski (Pol), 535; 38th G. Whyte (GB), 530; 39th D. Patauna (Pol), 525; 40th S. Morgan (GB), 520; 41st D. Mahony (GB), 515; 42nd J. Oleszinski (Pol), 510; 43rd G. Whyte (GB), 505; 44th D. Patauna (Pol), 500; 45th S. Morgan (GB), 495; 46th D. Mahony (GB), 490; 47th J. Oleszinski (Pol), 485; 48th G. Whyte (GB), 480; 49th D. Patauna (Pol), 475; 50th S. Morgan (GB), 470; 51st D. Mahony (GB), 465; 52nd J. Oleszinski (Pol), 460; 53rd G. Whyte (GB), 455; 54th D. Patauna (Pol), 450; 55th S. Morgan (GB), 445; 56th D. Mahony (GB), 440; 57th J. Oleszinski (Pol), 435; 58th G. Whyte (GB), 430; 59th D. Patauna (Pol), 425; 60th S. Morgan (GB), 420; 61st D. Mahony (GB), 415; 62nd J. Oleszinski (Pol), 410; 63rd G. Whyte (GB), 405; 64th D. Patauna (Pol), 400; 65th S. Morgan (GB), 395; 66th D. Mahony (GB), 390; 67th J. Oleszinski (Pol), 385; 68th G. Whyte (GB), 380; 69th D. Patauna (Pol), 375; 70th S. Morgan (GB), 370; 71st D. Mahony (GB), 365; 72nd J. Oleszinski (Pol), 360; 73rd G. Whyte (GB), 355; 74th D. Patauna (Pol), 350; 75th S. Morgan (GB), 345; 76th D. Mahony (GB), 340; 77th J. Oleszinski (Pol), 335; 78th G. Whyte (GB), 330; 79th D. Patauna (Pol), 325; 80th S. Morgan (GB), 320; 81st D. Mahony (GB), 315; 82nd J. Oleszinski (Pol), 310; 83rd G. Whyte (GB), 305; 84th D. Patauna (Pol), 300; 85th S. Morgan (GB), 295; 86th D. Mahony (GB), 290; 87th J. Oleszinski (Pol), 285; 88th G. Whyte (GB), 280; 89th D. Patauna (Pol), 275; 90th S. Morgan (GB), 270; 91st D. Mahony (GB), 265; 92nd J. Oleszinski (Pol), 260; 93rd G. Whyte (GB), 255; 94th D. Patauna (Pol), 250; 95th S. Morgan (GB), 245; 96th D. Mahony (GB), 240; 97th J. Oleszinski (Pol), 235; 98th G. Whyte (GB), 230; 99th D. Patauna (Pol), 225; 100th S. Morgan (GB), 220; 101st D. Mahony (GB), 215; 102nd J. Oleszinski (Pol), 210; 103rd G. Whyte (GB), 205; 104th D. Patauna (Pol), 200; 105th S. Morgan (GB), 195; 106th D. Mahony (GB), 190; 107th J. Oleszinski (Pol), 185; 108th G. Whyte (GB), 180; 109th D. Patauna (Pol), 175; 110th S. Morgan (GB), 170; 111st D. Mahony (GB), 165; 112th J. Oleszinski (Pol), 160; 113th G. Whyte (GB), 155; 114th D. Patauna (Pol), 150; 115th S. Morgan (GB), 145; 116th D. Mahony (GB), 140; 117th J. Oleszinski (Pol), 135; 118th G. Whyte (GB), 130; 119th D. Patauna (Pol), 125; 120th S. Morgan (GB), 120; 121st D. Mahony (GB), 115; 122nd J. Oleszinski (Pol), 110; 123rd G. Whyte (GB), 105; 124th D. Patauna (Pol), 100; 125th S. Morgan (GB), 95; 126th D. Mahony (GB), 90; 127th J. Oleszinski (Pol), 85; 128th G. Whyte (GB), 80; 129th D. Patauna (Pol), 75; 130th S. Morgan (GB), 70; 131st D. Mahony (GB), 65; 132nd J. Oleszinski (Pol), 60; 133rd G. Whyte (GB), 55; 134th D. Patauna (Pol), 50; 135th S. Morgan (GB), 45; 136th D. Mahony (GB), 40; 137th J. Oleszinski (Pol), 35; 138th G. Whyte (GB), 30; 139th D. Patauna (Pol), 25; 140th S. Morgan (GB), 20; 141st D. Mahony (GB), 15; 142nd J. Oleszinski (Pol), 10; 143rd G. Whyte (GB), 5; 144th D. Patauna (Pol), 0; 145th S. Morgan (GB), 0; 146th D. Mahony (GB), 0; 147th J. Oleszinski (Pol), 0; 148th G. Whyte (GB), 0; 149th D. Patauna (Pol), 0; 150th S. Morgan (GB), 0; 151st D. Mahony (GB), 0; 152nd J. Oleszinski (Pol), 0; 153rd G. Whyte (GB), 0; 154th D. Patauna (Pol), 0; 155th S. Morgan (GB), 0; 156th D. Mahony (GB), 0; 157th J. Oleszinski (Pol), 0; 158th G. Whyte (GB), 0; 159th D. Patauna (Pol), 0; 160th S. Morgan (GB), 0; 161st D. Mahony (GB), 0; 162nd J. Oleszinski (Pol), 0; 163rd G. Whyte (GB), 0; 164th D. Patauna (Pol), 0; 165th S. Morgan (GB), 0; 166th D. Mahony (GB), 0; 167th J. Oleszinski (Pol), 0; 168th G. Whyte (GB), 0; 169th D. Patauna (Pol), 0; 170th S. Morgan (GB), 0; 171st D. Mahony (GB), 0; 172nd J. Oleszinski (Pol), 0; 173rd G. Whyte (GB), 0; 174th D. Patauna (Pol), 0; 175th S. Morgan (GB), 0; 176th D. Mahony (GB), 0; 177th J. Oleszinski (Pol), 0; 178th G. Whyte (GB), 0; 179th D. Patauna (Pol), 0; 180th S. Morgan (GB), 0; 181st D. Mahony (GB), 0; 182nd J. Oleszinski (Pol), 0; 183rd G. Whyte (GB), 0; 184th D. Patauna (Pol), 0; 185th S. Morgan (GB), 0; 186th D. Mahony (GB), 0; 187th J. Oleszinski (Pol), 0; 188th G. Whyte (GB), 0; 189th D. Patauna (Pol), 0; 190th S. Morgan (GB), 0; 191st D. Mahony (GB), 0; 192nd J. Oleszinski (Pol), 0; 193rd G. Whyte (GB), 0; 194th D. Patauna (Pol), 0; 195th S. Morgan (GB), 0; 196th D. Mahony (GB), 0; 197th J. Oleszinski (Pol), 0; 198th G. Whyte (GB), 0; 199th D. Patauna (Pol), 0; 200th S. Morgan (GB), 0; 201st D. Mahony (GB), 0; 202nd J. Oleszinski (Pol), 0; 203rd G. Whyte (GB), 0; 204th D. Patauna (Pol), 0; 205th S. Morgan (GB), 0; 206th D. Mahony (GB), 0; 207th J. Oleszinski (Pol), 0; 208th G. Whyte (GB), 0; 209th D. Patauna (Pol), 0; 210th S. Morgan (GB), 0; 211st D. Mahony (GB), 0; 212th J. Oleszinski (Pol), 0; 213th G. Whyte (GB), 0; 214th D. Patauna (Pol), 0; 215th S. Morgan (GB), 0; 216th D. Mahony (GB), 0; 217th J. Oleszinski (Pol), 0; 218th G. Whyte (GB), 0; 219th D. Patauna (Pol), 0; 220th S. Morgan (GB), 0; 221st D. Mahony (GB), 0; 222nd J. Oleszinski (Pol), 0; 223rd G. Whyte (GB), 0; 224th D. Patauna (Pol), 0; 225th S. Morgan (GB), 0; 226th D. Mahony (GB), 0; 227th J. Oleszinski (Pol), 0; 228th G. Whyte (

TODAY'S FIXTURES

**G: Harold Grahertz v Ismael
Gury.**

[illegible]

MOTOR SPORT: Eurosport 12-1pm: Highlights of the German touring car

POWERSPORTS: POWERSPORTS INTERNATIONAL: Screenplay: 7:00-8:30pm.
RACING: BBC2: 2:15-4pm: 2.30, 3.0 and 3.35 from Ascot.
RALLYCROSS: Screensport: 11:30am-12:30pm: Highlights of the British championship from Brands Hatch.
RUGBY LEAGUE: Screensport: 8:30-10:30pm: Highlights of Wakefield v Wigan.
SKINIE: Screensport: 4-4:30pm: Highlights of the World Championship.
SPORTSNIGHT: BBC1: 12:25-11:55pm: Football: FA Cup replay: Highlights of the Manchester United v Oldham from Maine Road. Preview to the World Championship.
TENNIS: Screensport: 10-11:30pm and 6-7:30pm: Highlights of the Volvo International: Petre from Chicago, and the Pringles World Championship: Sam-Peterson from Florida.
TRANS WORLD SPORT: Screensport: 7-8pm: Sport from around the world.
UPDATE: Screensport: 7:30pm.
WIDE WORLD OF SPORT: Screensport: 7:30-8:30pm.

STUDENT SPORT

Scots stage recovery to trounce England

SCOTTISH Universities gained revenge for the defeat of their national side in the recent British volleyball championships when they beat England in the final of the universities men's championship at Strathclyde over the weekend.

From two sets down in the first and in apparent disarray, the Scots staged remarkable recovery to take the title. Major Cameron, of Heriot Watt University and Falkirk, and Marco Marinček, the Yugoslav international studying at Strathclyde, led the dramatic comeback in front of a lively home crowd.

The Scottish women also reached the final but were not so fortunate as their male counterparts, going down in three straight sets to England.

RESULTS: Scotland v England 1-0, 15-6; Scotland v Wales 1-0, 15-8; Scotland v Ireland 2-1, 9-15, 9-15, 15-7, 15-6, 15-9; Western v Scotland 1-0, 15-6; Scotland v England 1-0, 15-6.

11-15, 15-8; Scotland 1st London, 18-14, 15-6; **Finnish** England 1st Scotland, 13-11, 15-10, 15-10.

● With just over a week to the largest event in the student sporting calendar, the British Students Endsleigh Triangular Challenge, the contest looks set to provide an unparalleled level of competition.

The host of internationals attracted to this festival of sport will provide selectors for the World Student Games with an ideal opportunity to see the cream of student sport competing at one venue over a three-day period.

The festival, which sees the representation of teams of the British colleges, British polytechnics and British universities vying for superiority in football, basketball, hockey, netball and volleyball, will take place at Loughborough University from April 18 to 20.

Betts signs

Salford rugby league club have signed Darren Betts, the younger brother of the Wigan and Great Britain forward, Denis. Aged 19, Betts, a second-row forward, has agreed a three-year contract.

RACING

Impressive Machiavellian states 2,000 Guineas case

From Michael Seely
Racing Correspondent
Paris

Lengthening his stride impressively, Machiavellian beat Ron's Victory by 2½ lengths in the Prix Djebel at Maisons-Laffitte yesterday and is now a best-priced 13-8 with British bookmakers to give Francois Boutin his third victory in the General Accident 2,000 Guineas at Newmarket next month.

Although the manner of his victory was workmanlike rather than brilliant, Machiavellian's successful re-appearance totally satisfied Boutin and Freddie Head, the winning jockey.

The white-haired Boutin, looking as distinguished as ever, has already won the Newmarket classic with Nonalco (1974) and Zino (1982).

The great French trainer also had the mortification of watching Nureyev disqualified after easily beating Knowna Fact at Newmarket in 1980. "Nureyev is the best miler I have ever trained," Boutin said. "Machiavellian is the same type as Nonalco but

a much better horse than Zino."

After sending Machiavellian past the pacemaker Ron's Victory over a furlong from home, Head had to keep the 2-1 on favourite up to his work in the closing stages before winning by 2½ lengths. River Of Light finished half a length away third with Dictator's Song fourth.

Robin Des Bois, a stable companion of Machiavellian and an intended pacemaker for the favourite, had to be withdrawn because of a swollen fetlock.

Afterwards Head commented: "This was highly satisfactory and just what was wanted. Machiavellian is very idle at home and doesn't do a tap. I had to keep at it in the last 50 yards or so as he was doing nothing. He is probably the best colt I have ever ridden, certainly a different class from Zino."

Sired by the fashionable North American stallion, Mr Prospector, Machiavellian was bred by his owner, the 80-year-old Greek shipping tycoon, Stavros Niarchos, who was present to watch his colt win.

His Guineas price may seem short with the classic still more than three weeks away and all the important English trials still to take place.

However, a study of the race reveals a lack of serious challengers. Mukddam and Be My Chief are generally on offer at 10-1. Corals have Elmaamul, Jade Robbery, Raj

Details in France

Going good
PRIZE: 2,000 GUINEAS (about 3-4-0) colts: 12.12.82; 7/11: 1. MACHIAVELLIAN (F Head), 2. Ron's Victory (A Cruz), 3. River Of Light (J Bland), 4. Dictator's Song (Jm), 5. Nonalco (Jm), 6. Zino (Jm), 7. Elmaamul (Jm), 8. Jade Robbery (Jm), 9. Raj (Jm), 10. Mukddam (Jm), 11. Be My Chief (Jm), 12. Corals (Jm), 13. Elmaamul (Jm), 14. Jade Robbery (Jm), 15. Raj (Jm), 16. Mukddam (Jm), 17. Be My Chief (Jm), 18. Corals (Jm), 19. Elmaamul (Jm), 20. Jade Robbery (Jm), 21. Raj (Jm), 22. Mukddam (Jm), 23. Be My Chief (Jm), 24. Corals (Jm), 25. Elmaamul (Jm), 26. Jade Robbery (Jm), 27. Raj (Jm), 28. Mukddam (Jm), 29. Be My Chief (Jm), 30. Corals (Jm), 31. Elmaamul (Jm), 32. Jade Robbery (Jm), 33. Raj (Jm), 34. Mukddam (Jm), 35. Be My Chief (Jm), 36. Corals (Jm), 37. Elmaamul (Jm), 38. Jade Robbery (Jm), 39. Raj (Jm), 40. Mukddam (Jm), 41. Be My Chief (Jm), 42. Corals (Jm), 43. Elmaamul (Jm), 44. Jade Robbery (Jm), 45. Raj (Jm), 46. Mukddam (Jm), 47. Be My Chief (Jm), 48. Corals (Jm), 49. 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Elmaamul (Jm), 152. Jade Robbery (Jm), 153. Raj (Jm), 154. Mukddam (Jm), 155. Be My Chief (Jm), 156. Corals (Jm), 157. Elmaamul (Jm), 158. Jade Robbery (Jm), 159. Raj (Jm), 160. Mukddam (Jm), 161. Be My Chief (Jm), 162. Corals (Jm), 163. Elmaamul (Jm), 164. Jade Robbery (Jm), 165. Raj (Jm), 166. Mukddam (Jm), 167. Be My Chief (Jm), 168. Corals (Jm), 169. Elmaamul (Jm), 170. Jade Robbery (Jm), 171. Raj (Jm), 172. Mukddam (Jm), 173. Be My Chief (Jm), 174. Corals (Jm), 175. Elmaamul (Jm), 176. Jade Robbery (Jm), 177. Raj (Jm), 178. Mukddam (Jm), 179. Be My Chief (Jm), 180. Corals (Jm), 181. Elmaamul (Jm), 182. Jade Robbery (Jm), 183. Raj (Jm), 184. Mukddam (Jm), 185. Be My Chief (Jm), 186. Corals (Jm), 187. Elmaamul (Jm), 188. Jade Robbery (Jm), 189. Raj (Jm), 190. Mukddam (Jm), 191. Be My Chief (Jm), 192. Corals (Jm), 193. Elmaamul (Jm), 194. Jade Robbery (Jm), 195. Raj (Jm), 196. Mukddam (Jm), 197. Be My Chief (Jm), 198. Corals (Jm), 199. Elmaamul (Jm), 200. Jade Robbery (Jm), 201. 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FOOTBALL

Hopefuls meet at Highbury

By Dennis Siggy and Dennis Shaw

ALTHOUGH both Arsenal and Aston Villa have already lost more games than any other teams in the FA Cup quarter-final, they are only three points behind the leaders, despite collecting just two victories in seven league matches.

Their meeting at Highbury tonight, held over from Saturday for live screening on ITV, is certainly billed as the champions, who are fourth in the table, against Graham Taylor's second-placed pretenders.

Nevertheless, the shadow of Liverpool, the League championship favourites, hangs over the game. While Arsenal and Villa contest what may prove to be a last chance to stay in the race and gain a possible place in Europe next season, Kenny Dalglish's side will be playing across London, at Selhurst Park, against Charlton Athletic, who are one place from the bottom of the table.

"There's no hiding place for anyone now," Taylor, the Villa manager, said yesterday. "I believe we are going to Arsenal to win. The players have to show to me that they believe it, too. With six games to go, they have got to prove not only that they can get it right this time, but that we have the strength to get into the top six again next season."

"People are saying that the defeat at home to Manchester City cost us the title, but we don't see it that way at all," George Graham, the Arsenal manager, whose side have had a ten-day break with the rescheduling of the fixture, has Merson fit to resume after injury. He must decide whether to restore Merson at the expense of Campbell, the young protegee who has made an immediate impact with the North Bank.

Arsenal, who are nine points behind Liverpool, have lost only once in five matches, Chelsea inflicting their first home defeat of the season, but they need an unbeaten sequence to retain any hopes of keeping their title.

Villa, who have been inconsistent of late, losing at

home to Wimbledon and Manchester City and being defeated 3-0 by Oldham in an FA Cup quarter-final, are only three points behind the leaders, despite collecting just two victories in seven league matches.

They have invested £1.5 million in acquiring Casanova from Millwall, in the hope he will provide a spur to his other forwards, Ormrod and Olney, in the final month of the season.

Villa have promised much after an inauspicious start that labelled them as likely candidates for relegation, rather than the champions. Although they are still without Mountfield, their influential defender, who plays in the reserves, tonight's Spank has regained his old form.

McGrath has overcome his injury problems to re-emerge as one of the best defenders in the land, and Cowsens has been such a model of consistency that his name has been mentioned by Bobby Robson, the England manager, in World Cup terms.

Platt, a current international, who has scored 22 goals this season, has been voted Player of the Year by his fellow professionals and Daley has proved one of the fastest and most exciting players in the first division.

The stage is set. Theo Foley, the Arsenal assistant manager, says three successive wins for Arsenal will put pressure on Liverpool, the visitors at Highbury a week from today.

Ken Friar, the club's chief executive, believes the attendance — the average at Highbury this season is more than 35,000 — could be affected by the BBC's decision to show the Manchester United v Oldham Athletic FA Cup semi-final at the same time. However, the £145,000 Arsenal will receive from ITV will surely compensate.

Liverpool, though, with a game in hand over Villa, are in the driving seat. The excitement at Highbury tonight will continue until the result from Selhurst Park lets both sides know exactly where they stand.



Raring to go: the Arsenal forward, Merson, has recovered from injury to face Aston Villa

Liverpool resume title chase

By Ian Ross and Louise Taylor

KENNY Dalglish, the manager of Liverpool, dusted down one of his own more endearing clichés yesterday as he attempted to place into context his side's surprising FA Cup semi-final defeat by Crystal Palace last Sunday.

Liverpool's pursuit of the championship resumes tonight against Charlton Athletic, ironically at Selhurst Park, home of Crystal Palace, Dalglish anticipating a typically resilient display from his players.

"We have never dwelt on games in the past so we will not be dwelling on one bad result," he said. "My players were disappointed about what happened on Sunday, and they should be, but that game has now gone and we must look forward."

"We must try and learn something from every game. I am certain that we shall go into this one in the right frame of mind. It is a compliment to this club, and what it has achieved in the past, that people have made so much of one semi-final defeat," he added.

Although he did not admit as much, Dalglish has plainly been hurt by the widespread criticism of his side's defensive performance against Crystal Palace.

"I think that if you take Sunday's game in isolation it is a fact that they scored from three set pieces. But if you take things as a whole I do not think that people can justifiably say that we are susceptible to the long ball."

Liverpool, who lead Aston Villa by three points at the top of the first division, will be without both Rush and Gillespie.

Rush is suffering from a damaged rib muscle while Gillespie has a groin strain. "I must wait and see how all my players are before naming my side. It is disappointing to lose anybody," Dalglish said.

Steve McMahon, the England international midfielder, player, said that he and his colleagues were delighted to be back in action so soon after Sunday's defeat. "We must go out and make sure that that performance was a one-off," he said.

Having finally managed to haul themselves off the foot of the table, handing over to Millwall, Charlton will have every incentive to try and cause Liverpool further embarrassment. Lemmy Lawrence's team are never more dangerous than at this stage of the season when they regularly perform miracles of escapology.

Manchester City, the team occupying 17th position, will be aiming to keep their heads above the relegation zone by collecting at least a point against a Queen's Park Rangers side which has done little wrong since Don Howe succeeded Trevor Francis as coach.

Tonight's second division programme sees Newcastle United, still with hopes of first division football next season, unchanged for the home game against West Bromwich Albion, while West Ham United, promising for a play-off place, will be aiming to force the door further ajar by beating relegation-threatened Burnley at Upton Park.

Harry Redknapp will be

returning to the ground where he once played alongside Billy Bonds, now his West Ham counterpart, for the first time as Burnley manager.

Redknapp, widely rumoured to be a likely successor to Lou Macari before Bonds was appointed, must find a way for his players to restrict Bishop, once of Burnley, but now a shining light in the West Ham midfield.

Halifax Town have been told by the Football Association that they cannot appeal against bans imposed last week on two of their defenders, Dean Martin and Paul Fleming, Martin, who was sent off in the fourth division game at Torquay, has been given a three-match suspension which rules him out of away games against Hereford United tonight and Peterborough United on Saturday and the home match against York City on Easter Monday.

Fleming, who has accumulated more than 21 disciplinary points after being booked at Torquay will miss one match, at Hereford.

Gugard injury

England will be without Martin Dugard for the three speedway international matches against Denmark starting at Oxford on April 18. The Oxford rider was involved in a crash with Richard Knight during the Gold Cup match at Kings Lynn on Saturday and tests have revealed fractures to a wrist and ankle.

Glenavon ignore a rare setback

By George Ace

Park, Dundalk on April 24.

There are two full international matches in the 18-man squad named by manager Maurice Setters today — the Arsenal Cup semi-final tie at Mountview Park, the venue for Saturday's virtual league decider against Glenavon.

Terry Nicholson, the Glenavon manager, is paying scant attention to that result as he prepares his team for their most important game at Mountview for many years.

"It will be a different Portadown we will meet on Saturday. Some regulars were missing last night, but they still played well," Nicholson said yesterday. It is all or nothing for us on Saturday. If we win we will be only one point behind Portadown with three matches to go. If we are beaten they will be out of reach."

This was Newry's second semi-final win over Portadown, having defeated the Shamrock Park men in the Roadrunner Cup at the same stage. Ralph and Fay scored late goals for Newry after Cunningham had put Portadown ahead on the hour. Newry Town will now meet Banbridge Town in the final.

FAIR PLAY AND CUP: Semi-final draws: 1. Shamrock Park v Newry; 2. Banbridge v Portadown; 3. Portadown v Newry; 4. Portadown v Newry; 5. Portadown v Newry; 6. Portadown v Newry; 7. Portadown v Newry; 8. Portadown v Newry; 9. Portadown v Newry; 10. Portadown v Newry; 11. Portadown v Newry; 12. Portadown v Newry; 13. Portadown v Newry; 14. Portadown v Newry; 15. Portadown v Newry; 16. Portadown v Newry; 17. Portadown v Newry; 18. Portadown v Newry; 19. Portadown v Newry; 20. Portadown v Newry; 21. Portadown v Newry; 22. Portadown v Newry; 23. Portadown v Newry; 24. Portadown v Newry; 25. Portadown v Newry; 26. Portadown v Newry; 27. Portadown v Newry; 28. Portadown v Newry; 29. Portadown v Newry; 30. Portadown v Newry; 31. Portadown v Newry; 32. Portadown v Newry; 33. Portadown v Newry; 34. Portadown v Newry; 35. Portadown v Newry; 36. Portadown v Newry; 37. Portadown v Newry; 38. Portadown v Newry; 39. Portadown v Newry; 40. Portadown v Newry; 41. Portadown v Newry; 42. 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Russell's lesson in resolution

From Alan Lee
Cricket Correspondent
Bridgetown, Barbados

The courage and commitment of Jack Russell sustained England's hopes of escape at Kensington Oval yesterday as the Fourth Test match drew to an unbearably tense climax.

Russell, who went into bat as nightwatchman on Sunday evening with England close to ruin at 10-3, remained staunch and immovable against furious West Indian fast bowling. England, 1-0 ahead, with only the final Test in Antigua to come, were anxiously aware that the success of this extraordinary tour might be judged on the outcome of this single day and Russell was determined to see it through.

He began as the irritant the West Indies wanted removed to allow them a sight of the main agenda. But, not for the first time in a Test match, this phlegmatic character responded to a crisis in a manner reminiscent of his wicket-keeping predecessor, Alan Knott. His technique might be faulted on artistic impression, but never on effectiveness.

This was always going to be a day to strain the nerves, even without the racial undertones emanating from sensitive local reaction to perceived criticism of West Indian morals. As usual in these cases, a cricketing issue — in this instance, umpires responding to unfair pressure — was taken out of context and distorted which did little to promote goodwill either in the crowd or on the field.

Harmony between the teams was not at its strongest yesterday and, even before lunch, Haynes had offered Russell some plainly unwelcome advice from silly mid-off and Richards, pumped up near to bursting point, fed his side from slip with such irrational frenzy that it was quite plain he, for one, regarded this as a battle which had to be won.

The crowd was exceptional for the last day of the match and the morning was played out to choruses of "We shall overcome" from the stands popular with locals. The cricket was gripping, as indeed this entire series has been, but there was the additional sense of a team striving desperately to preserve its reputation as champions.

Marshall and Moseley were selected to launch the attack, Richards pursuing his usual theory of releasing his pace bowlers in squads an hour at a time. The first hour passed in relative calm, West Indies improving their speed of operations enough to bowl 13 overs, Russell and Stewart standing impassively defiant.

Stewart has begun to look a better Test player since he abandoned the idea of trying to bat like Geoff Boycott and restored shots to his game. He gained confidence from the

BARBADOS SCOREBOARD

England won toss

WEST INDIES

First Innings

		40	40	40	40
C G Greenidge c Russell b DeFreitas	41	8	108	77	
D L Haynes c Stewart b Small	0	1	13	4	
R B Richardson c Russell b Small	45	8	144	89	
C A Best c Russell b Small	184	10	428	245	
V A Richards c Russell b Capel	70	2	7	151	110
A L Logie b Russell b Capel	31	1	6	59	251
J P L Dujon b Capel	31	1	5	132	74
M D Marshall c Lamb b Small	4	1	1	12	5
C E L. Ambrose not out	21	4	7	18	44
I R Bishop run out	10	1	1	42	31
E A Moseley b DeFreitas	4	1	1	21	19
Extras (lb 5, nb 18)	29				
Total (131.5 overs)	448				

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-6, 2-69, 3-108, 4-227, 5-291, 6-385, 7-405, 8-411, 9-431.
BOWLING: Malcolm 33-6-142-0 (nb 2); Small 35-5-109-4; DeFreitas 22.5-5-99-2; (nb 14); Capel 24-5-88-3 (nb 2).

Second Innings

		40	40	40	40
C G Greenidge b Russell b Small	3	1	31	17	
D L Haynes c Russell b Small	109	1	8	177	
R B Richardson b Russell b Small	39	1	6	67	49
V A Richards c Russell b Small	12	1	1	40	28
A L Logie b Russell b Small	48	1	1	174	60
E A Moseley b Russell b Small	5	1	1	54	8
M D Marshall c Russell b Small	7	1	1	13	12
J P L Dujon not out	15	1	1	49	5
C E L. Ambrose c Capel b DeFreitas	1	1	1	37	16
I R Bishop not out	11	1	1	37	16
Extras (lb 12, w 1, nb 4)	17				
Total (8 white dec, 68 overs)	257				

C A Best did not bat.
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-13, 2-30, 3-105, 4-225, 5-226, 6-238, 7-239, 8-238.
BOWLING: Malcolm 10-0-46-0; Small 20-1-74-4; DeFreitas 22-0-69-3; Capel 16-1-66-1.

ENGLAND

First Innings

		40	40	40	40
A J Stewart c Richards b Moseley	45	1	2	61	
W Larkins c Richardson b Bishop	0	1	2	1	
R J Bailey b Bishop	17	1	2	41	19
A J Lamb b Bishop b Ambrose	119	14	339	224	
A L Smith b Moseley	62	4	271	246	
N Hussain b Bishop	18	3	92	49	
D J Capel c Greenidge b Marshall	2	1	14	6	
I R Russell b Bishop	7	1	1	51	31
A J DeFreitas c and b Ambrose	24	1	2	31	30
G C Small not out	1	1	1	20	6
D E Malcolm b Bishop	21	2	15	15	
Extras (lb 14, w 5, nb 25)	51				
Total (103.5 overs)	388				

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-1, 2-46, 3-75, 4-268, 5-297, 6-301, 7-305, 8-340, 9-340.
BOWLING: Bishop 24.3-5-70-4; Ambrose 25-2-82-2 (nb 10); Moseley 28-4-114-2 (nb 12, w 3); Marshall 23-5-55-2 (nb 7); Richards 9-4-14-0.

Second Innings

		40	40	40	40
A J Stewart c Richards b Ambrose	37	1	2	2	
W Larkins c Dujon b Bishop	0	1	2	1	
R J Bailey c Dujon b Ambrose	6	1	22	16	
G C Small b Bishop	0	1	5	2	
I R Russell not out	62	1	1	1	
A J Lamb c Dujon b Moseley	10	1	2	58	28
A L Smith not out	11	1	1	1	
Extras	19				
Total (5 white)	125				

N Hussain, D J Capel, P A J DeFreitas and D E Malcolm to bat.
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-1, 2-10, 3-10, 4-71, 5-97.

Umpires: D Archer and L Barker.

First Test (Kingston, Jamaica): England won by nine wickets.
Second Test (Port of Spain, Trinidad): Match drawn.
Third Test (Georgetown, Guyana): Match drawn.
Fourth Test (Antigua): April 12 to 17.

fraught final day in Trinidad, when he thrillingly counter-attacked against persistent short-pitched bowling, but now he was in the dilemma of re-adjusting to a situation in which time, not runs, was all that mattered.

He solved the equation well enough, subduing his instincts without total sedation, and when Ambrose's accuracy failed him, he pulled flat and hard for four.

Bishop, unleashed from the city end, attacked from around the wicket with eight men close to the bat. Russell either propped watchfully forward or jumped back, jam-

ming down hard on anything keeping a shade low. Every over he survived was a psychological gain for England with their most accomplished players still waiting in the pavilion.

Half-an-hour before lunch, Ambrose broke the stand in an over memorable for the animation of Richards. When Stewart was hopelessly beaten outside the off-stump, Richards strutted forward from slip, his expression thunderous, clapping his hands and barking out his exhortations in an affected style.

Ambrose, apparently, was impressed. His next ball committed Stewart to the forward push and the edge flew at waist-height to first slip, where Richards grasped it and set off on what he liked to call his ceremonial jig but is in fact becoming ever more like a stagey lap of honour.

The fourth wicket had produced 61, which was more than England had dared hoped. The fifth might easily have been aborted on the launchpad. Lamb had not scored when he followed a wide one from Ambrose as if hypnotized. He steered it low



Celebration: Ambrose is jubilant after having Stewart caught by Richards yesterday

to the left of third slip and Marshall, diving, got both hands to the ball but failed to hold on.

To lose the acting captain before lunch would surely have been a terminal wound for English hopes. As it was, they dined in restrained optimism, a mood deflated within half-an-hour of the resumption. Despite two fours, steered through a field now totally committed to attack, Lamb had looked nervous, never suggesting permanence.

Umpire Archer had reminded him about his time-keeping when he dawdled out after lunch and, arguably, his batting suffered from being unusually negative.

He owes England nothing

after his magnificent first-innings century, but just how much his wicket meant to the game became obvious when he pushed, with angled bat, at an off-stump ball from Moseley and Dujon took the catch. West Indian celebrations were wild. They felt, in that moment, that they were winning the match and with it, potentially, the series.

Marshall was now operating with a sustained hostility not seen from him in the series to date. Bowling round the wicket, he gave Smith, his Hampshire county colleague, a torrid introduction. Appeal followed appeal, all stonically declined by umpire Barker, and Smith once more demonstrated impressive self-discipline.

Middlesex ballot on women

By Richard Streeton

MIDDLESEX County Cricket Club is to hold a ballot on admitting women members to the Lord's pavilion during the county's matches. Middlesex are the tenants of MCC at Lord's, where the pavilion is the last in English cricket still restricted to men during matches.

The ballot was arranged after a resolution was received asking that the club should request MCC to allow women Middlesex members into the pavilion on days when the county played at Lord's. The resolution is proposed and seconded in the names Car-

line de Carteret-Bisson and F.C. Oxford, who are designated Ms on the annual meeting agenda. The result of the ballot will be made known at the meeting on May 3.

Middlesex have about 10,000 members, of whom between 600 and 700 pay a reduced subscription to be women members. Lancashire's vote this winter to allow women members into the Old Trafford pavilion left the Lord's building as the sole men-only pavilion.

The initial feeling among MCC and Middlesex officials

was that it was improbable that the Middlesex ballot would support the admission of women to the pavilion. Even if a majority of Middlesex members were in favour, the request would be unlikely to be granted by the MCC committee.

Two years ago MCC conducted a survey among its own 18,000 members on whether the election of women members should be considered. Seventy per cent were against and only 29 per cent were in favour. That one per cent held no view was a minor curiosity.

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Europeans fortified by French

By Ian Ross

PHILIPPE Dintrens, the French hooker, will captain the FIRA team against the Home Unions XV at Twickenham on March 22 in a rugby union match to raise funds for Romania.

Dintrens will be joined at Twickenham by three other French internationals, even though players from the country's leading 16 clubs were not considered as the French championship nears its climax. They include Patrice Lagisquet, the wing, who scored in three of France's five nations' championship matches this season, to take his haul of international tries to 19.

Although Oldham are fully aware that their exploits in the knockout competitions this season, are beginning to take a heavy toll in terms of their promotion chances, they remain confident of reaching the FA and Littlewoods Cup finals.

Whoever is successful in purchasing the controlling interest of Edwards in United, an equity which is conservatively valued at £15 million, is unlikely to look favourably on Ferguson's record since he succeeded Ron Atkinson 3½ years ago, unless, of course, his gaze were to be deflected by the sight of the FA Cup resting in a rarely disturbed trophy room.

The admission by Ferguson that the 3-3 draw on Sunday, between the clubs, constituted

Ferguson seeking sweetener for Edwards's successor

By Ian Ross

ALEX Ferguson, the manager of Manchester United, will not need to be reminded that the reputation of his beleaguered team, and quite possibly his own job, will once again be on the line at Maine Road tonight.

Should United fail to overcome Oldham Athletic, of the second division, in their FA Cup semi-final replay, the club's problematical season will be over and Ferguson will be left to face, with great apprehension, a summer during which Martin Edwards, as the chairman and most loyal supporter, will almost certainly relinquish the control he has long enjoyed at Old Trafford.

Whoever is successful in purchasing the controlling interest of Edwards in United, an equity which is conservatively valued at £15 million, is unlikely to look favourably on Ferguson's record since he succeeded Ron Atkinson 3½ years ago, unless, of course, his gaze were to be deflected by the sight of the FA Cup resting in a rarely disturbed trophy room.

The admission by Ferguson that the 3-3 draw on Sunday, between the clubs, constituted



one of the most nerve-racking episodes in a hitherto successful managerial career, went some way to explaining the enormous pressure under which he is working.

It seems improbable that Oldham will be willing to ease Ferguson's anxiety tonight as they seek to further enhance an already commendable reputation.

Although Oldham are fully aware that their exploits in the knockout competitions this season, are beginning to take a heavy toll in terms of their promotion chances, they remain confident of reaching the FA and Littlewoods Cup finals.

"We shall apply ourselves to this latest task in much the same way as we did on Sunday. In many respects our performance in that game was more important than the result because I think we proved to many people that we can play football and that we do not have to rely on an artificial surface," Joe Royle, the Oldham manager, said.

Royle is expected to name an unchanged side tonight but Ferguson admitted that he is seriously considering making changes.

"I cannot make my mind up this time. I do not know what to do about my team. I will do my homework, sleep on it and decide tomorrow," he said.

One man who is guaranteed a place in the line up is Bryan Robson, the England captain, who scored the opening United goal on Sunday in what was his first senior appearance since December 23.

"Robson is feeling terrific. There is no question he will last the full 90 minutes or even more if necessary. He has gone through the fitness barrier and will, I am sure, be a more effective player this time around," Ferguson said.

Predictably, Ferguson is expected another tight game. "I am certain it will be another open game and that it will be another tremendous advert for English football. We have been reminded about what the big games are like, which is something that Oldham already appreciate. This game seemed to have caught the public's imagination," he said.

Sweden lie in wait in the semi-finals

By Ian Ross

GOETENBURG (Reuters) — Desmond Douglas led England to victory over the Soviet Union and into the semi-finals of the European table tennis championships yesterday.

The match to decide who would meet the defending champions, Sweden, in the last four ended 5-1 to England, with Dmitri Mazunov, aged 18, the only victorious Soviet player, beating the English No. 1, Alan Cooke, 24-26, 21-16, 21-17. The result earned England, who were the silver medal winners in the event two years ago, second place in group A, behind the unbeaten West Germans.

The reliance of the Soviet team, the 1988 bronze medalists, who were fourth at the world championships a year ago, on Mazunov and his brother, Andrei, was their downfall. Andrei lost to both the veteran Douglas, aged 34, and Carl Phean.

West Germany cruised to their second 5-0 victory, beating Poland, while Sweden, who rested their world champion, Jan-Ove Waldner, beat Hungary by the same score in their final round-robin match to win group B.

Yugoslavia narrowly made the semi-finals, despite being beaten 5-4 by Czechoslovakia in group B. The Yugoslavs finished equal on points with the up-and-coming French squad, but took second place in the group by virtue of having won their match against France. They were due to meet West Germany in the semi-finals.

The Soviet women found the task of defending their European crown too difficult without Filina Bulatova, the 1988 singles winner, who has not been playing in Europe this year. Not even Valentina Popova, twice champion herself, and ranked sixth in Europe, could rescue them from a 3-1 defeat by the Netherlands, which kept them out of the semi-finals.

The Olympic quarter-finalist, Bettine Vriesekoop, and Mirjam Hoeman earned the Dutch, the bronze medal winners in Paris two years ago, a place in the semi-finals against the winners of group B, Czechoslovakia, in the semi-finals, who beat Yugoslavia without dropping a game in their first round-robin match. In the semi-final, the Yugoslavs were playing Hungary.